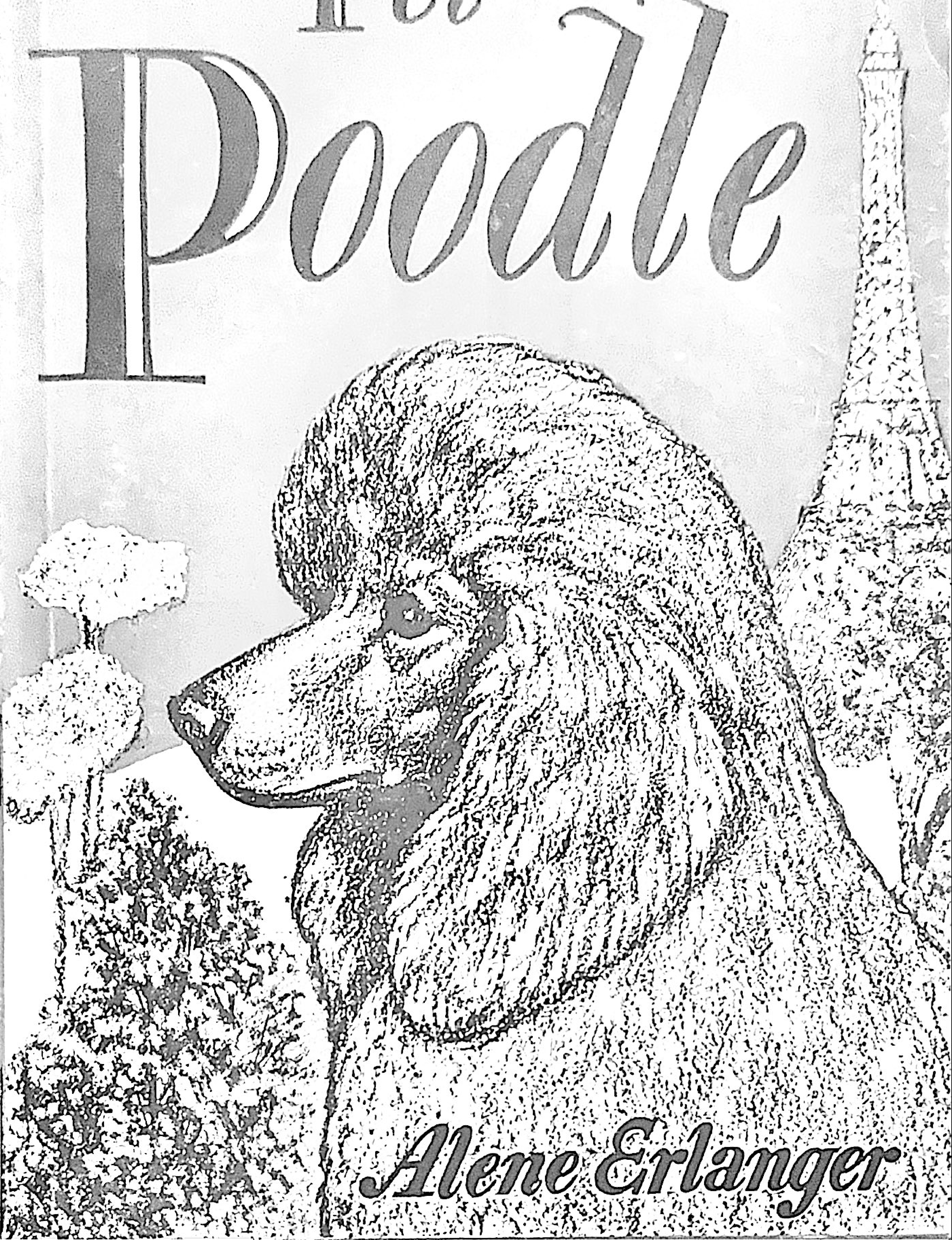
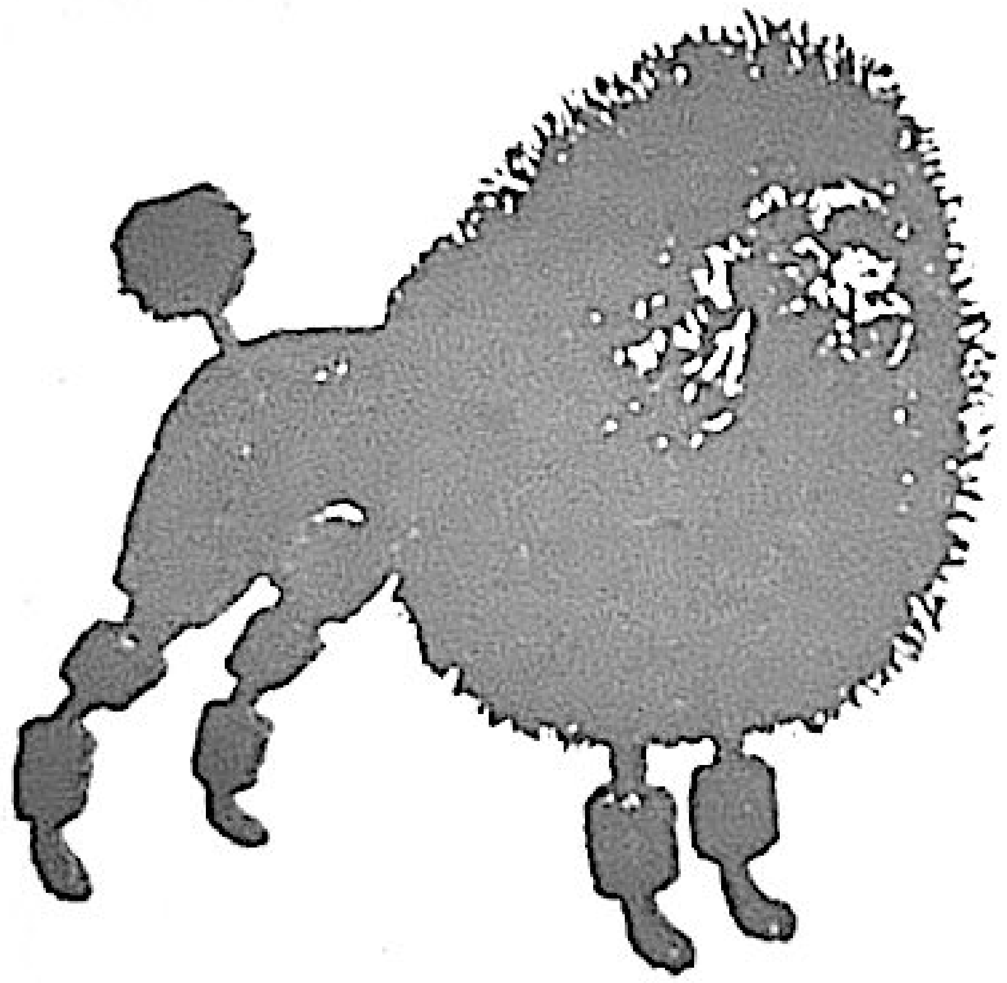
Pet Poodle

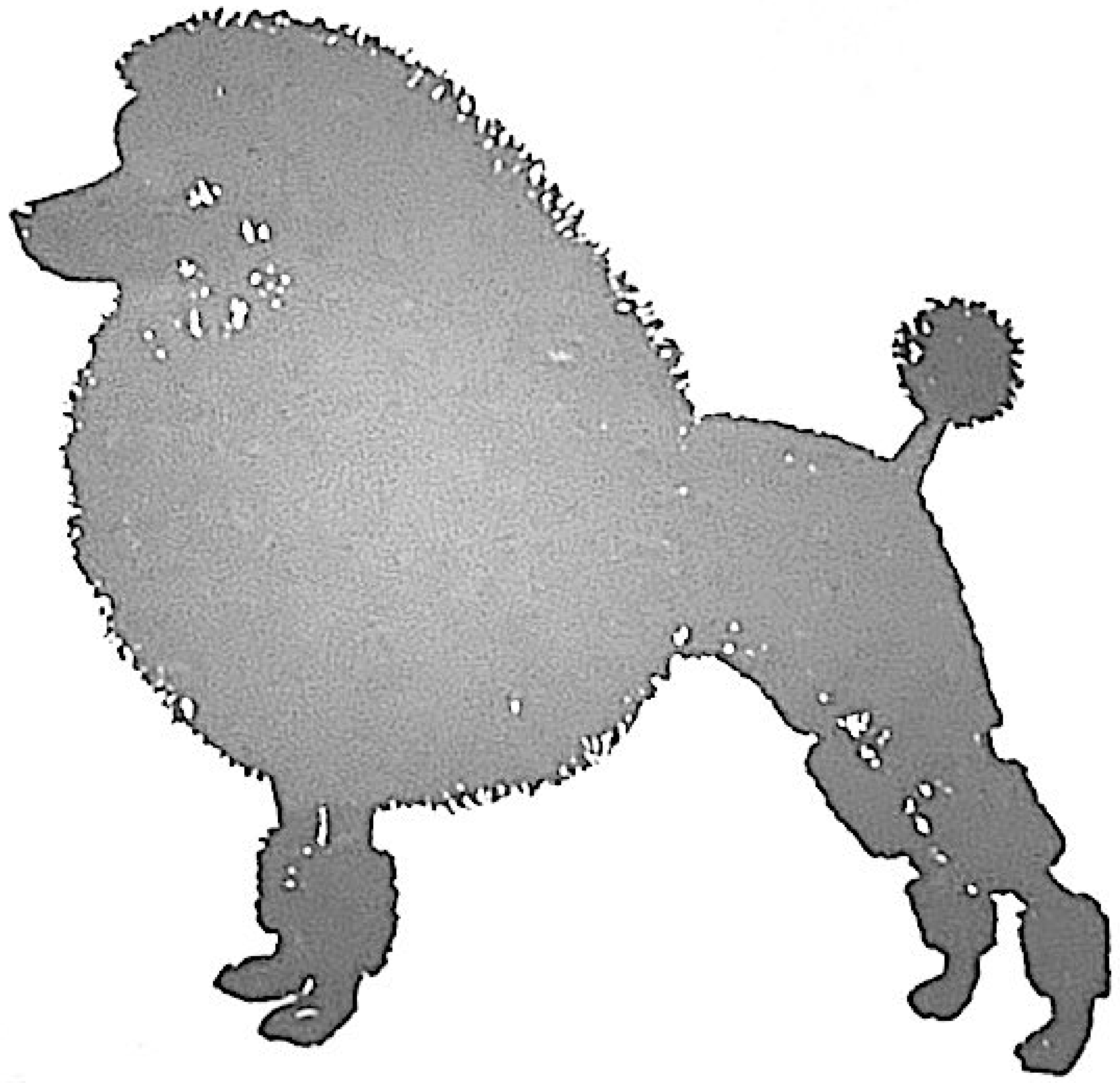


Alene Erlanger

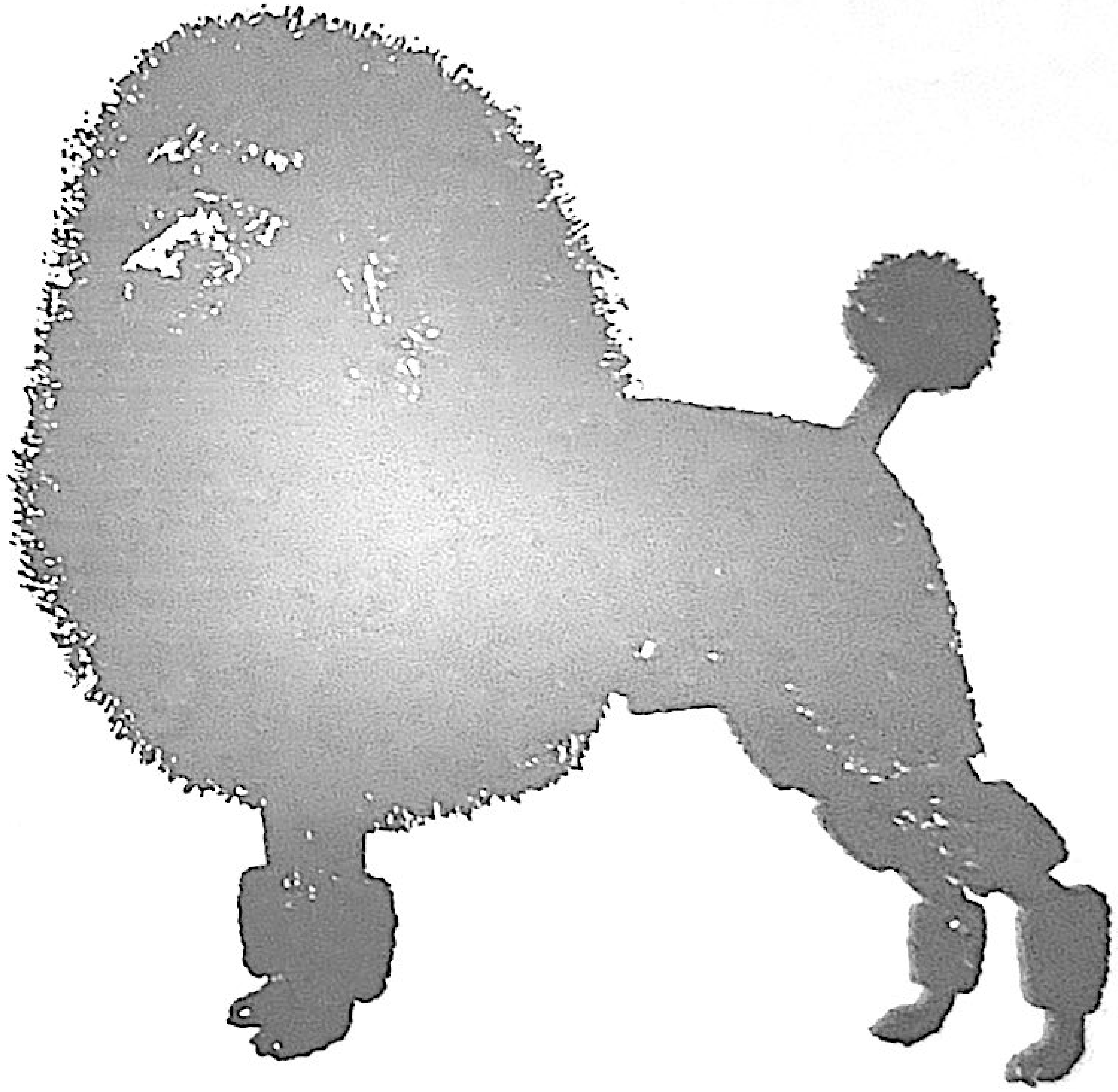
Pet
Poodle



Toy Poodle



Miniature Poodle



Standard Poodle

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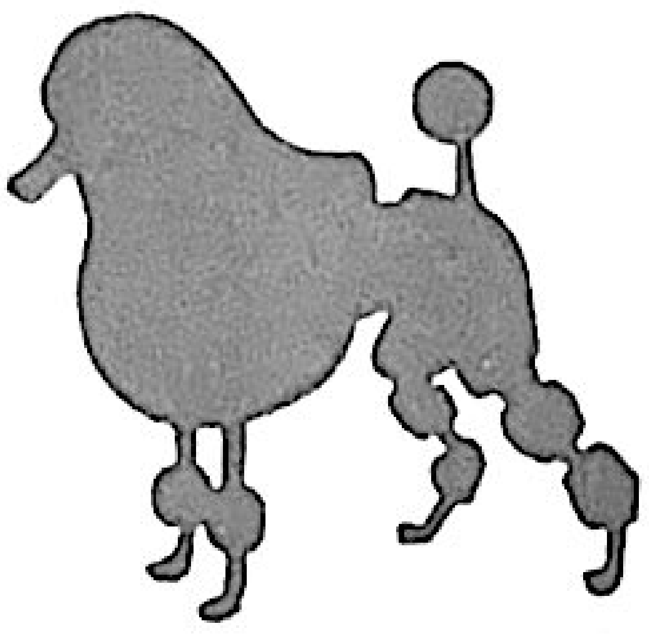

by

Alene Erlanger

The Health of Your Poodle

by

Joseph A. S. Millar, V.M.D.

1956

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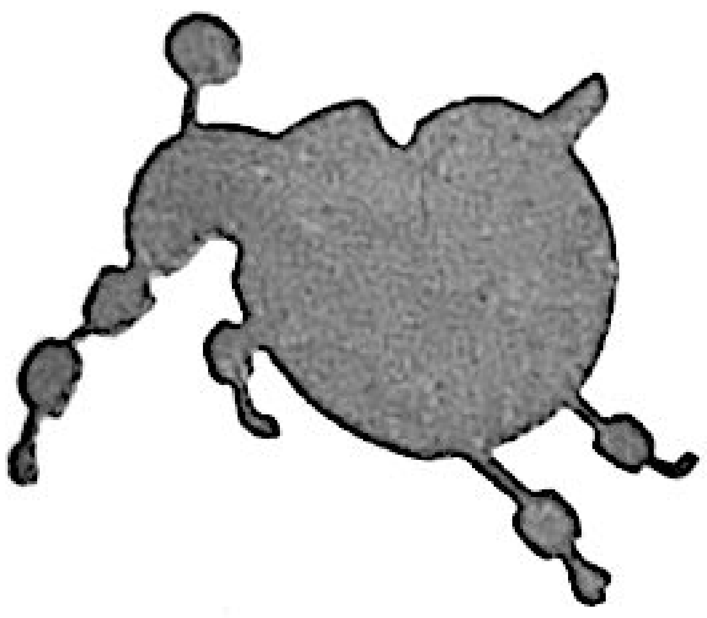


A Poodle Is All Dogs to All Men

A friend and fellow fancier who has had wide experience with every breed of dog, once said to me: "I pity anyone who has never owned a Poodle."

If you have ever had one, you will know that he was right, because the Poodle is all dogs to all men. His versatility has earned him the title of *Super Companion.* He is the most adaptable of dogs, stylish and beautiful to look at, sweet-tempered and intelligent to live with, and strong enough to be used for outdoor or sporting purposes. Food and exercise are not as vital to his well-being as human companionship: he can get along under almost any conditions; he can do without regular meals; he can do without adequate exercise, but he cannot live without love.

The Poodle is naturally hardy and easy to rear, and since there is considerable latitude in size allowed by the standard, there is a Poodle to fit every purpose. The larger ones are excellent retrievers and watch-dogs. They are known all over the country as obedience trial winners; they are equally companionable in the city or the country. The toys and miniatures are just as attractive and intelligent as pets for city or country dwellers.

The ideal environment for a Poodle is a home in which he is the center of a loving family. He recognizes the supreme authority of one person; so in one sense of the word, he is a one-man dog; still, he is polite and friendly to every member of the household. He will accept strangers as soon as he is sure that they are welcome, but he will not make up readily to anyone. He learns readily, and he retains what he learns.

In addition to all these mental and spiritual qualities, he alone possesses one physical characteristic that sets him apart from all other pets: *He does not shed his coat.*

A Poodle's coat keeps on growing, but it will not come out unless you brush it out. What greater recommendation can there be to a prospective pet owner, especially if he or she be very busy? Furthermore, when the Poodle's feet and face are properly trimmed, he will not track mud into the house, nor will he dribble food from his whiskers. He has no body odor; and in the proper environment he is a comfort, a delight, and a joy forever.

All these qualities apply to Poodles in general; there are, however, three divisions to the breed — all equally enchanting. In deciding with which one of the three to share your environment, the size of your family and your manner of life must be taken into consideration.

Ancient Bas Reliefs Portray the Poodle

(Reprinted by courtesy of the American Kennel Club and the Poodle Club of America)

Toy Poodle—While it is concluded by all authorities that the large-sized specimens of the breed are the older varieties, there is sufficient evidence to show that the Toy Poodle was developed only a short time after the breed assumed the general type in which it is known today. This type, incidentally, has changed less than that of almost any other breed. It is a dog that has come down to us as the ancients knew it. Refinements have been effected, but there has been no change in its essential characteristics.

Those bas-reliefs, dating from the first century, that are found along the shores of the Mediterranean portray the Poodle very much as he is seen in the twentieth century. Clipped to resemble the lion, he is not unlike some of the specimens seen at the earliest bench shows.

It is possible that in the dim past there was a link between the dog attributed to the Island of Melita—now known as the Maltese—and the Toy Poodle. Similarly, there probably was a relationship between the Poodle and the dog of Spain—the Spaniel. If not from the same progenitor, the paths of their ancestors must have crossed at some remote time.

The first concrete evidence of the existence of the Toy Poodle in England is not found until the eighteenth century, when a toy known as the "White Cuban" became exceedingly popular in England. It was a sleeve dog, which soon became the pet of every grand lady in the country. This breed's origin was attributed to the West Indian island of Cuba, whence it travelled to Spain, and from there to England. Queen Anne had several of these dogs in her later years. She had first seen them about 1700 when there came to England a troupe of performing dogs known as "The Ball of Little Dogs." These Toy Poodles were exceptionally well trained, and they danced to music in almost human fashion.

The Continent had known the Toy Poodle several centuries before it came to England. There are line drawings by the great German artist Dürer that definitely establish the breed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. How long the dog had been known in Spain is problematical, but it was definitely the principal pet dog of the latter eighteenth century. This is established through the paintings of the famous Spanish artist Goya. In many of his portraits of the ladies of the court may be seen excellent examples of the Toy Poodle. And France enthroned the Toy Poodle as the pampered favorite during the reign of Louis XVI, about the same period.

Considerable mystery surrounds the "White Cuban." Subsequent histories of the dog leave no conviction that this breed was indigenous to Cuba. No doubt, specimens of the Poodle or the Maltese—possibly both—had been carried to the West Indies by early explorers and traders. According to Lloyd, the White Cuban was a cross between the German or French white-corded Poodles and the Maltese. These dogs were larger than the Maltese, and their cords trailed on the ground.

The Toy Poodle is credited with being the principal ancestor of the truffle dog of England. It is believed that the Toy Poodle was crossed with a small terrier to produce a dog that would be ideal for its strange occupation. The truffle is an edible fungus that was formerly considered a great delicacy.

The high prices it commanded were so attractive that the hunting of truffles became a widespread trade, especially in certain parts of Hampshire and Wiltshire. The difficulty of procuring truffles lay in the fact that the fungus grew underground. It had to be scented out by a dog so that the master could dig it out. The dogs had to be carefully trained, and usually they were white in color, because truffle-hunting was done at night. The sagacity and the scenting powers of the Poodle were said to form a perfect complement to the terrier's ability to go to earth.

The modern history of the Toy Poodle is a straight descent from the size of the Standard and Miniature Poodles. Standards are fifteen inches or more at the shoulder; miniatures under fifteen inches but over ten inches, while toys are ten inches or under. The standards for all three are identical except for size. The so-called "White Cuban phase" of the breed is believed to have no influence on the present-day specimens. The dogs of the eighteenth century in England probably left few, if any, descendants.

The diminutive size of the Toy Poodle rather militates against his use in any sporting sense, but fanciers of the small dog credit him with carrying all the tendencies of the larger members of the breed. His intelligence also is regarded as similarly high.

Miniature and Standard—The Poodle is one of the most intelligent of the canine race, having within its own breed great variations of character. In fact, there is something more human than canine about most Poodles, which quality makes them unique dogs and enchanting companions.

The origin of the Poodle is a mystery, although it is supposed by many authorities to have originated in Germany, where it is known as the *Pudel* or *Canis Familiaris Aquatius*. However, for many years it has been regarded as the national dog of France, where it was commonly used as a retriever as well as a traveling circus dog. In France it was, and is, known as the *caniche*, which is derived from *chien canne* or duck dog.

The English word poodle is undoubtedly derived from the German *Pudel* and the expression "French" Poodle was undoubtedly adopted because of the breed's great popularity in France.

As a matter of fact, the unclipped Poodle of today bears a strong resemblance in type to the old rough-haired water dog of England as painted by Reinagle at the beginning of the nineteenth century; and, except that the Irish Water Spaniel is born with short hair on its face and tail, there is little difference between this ancient Irish dog and the Poodle.

Whatever its origin, the Poodle is a well-established breed, for—as far as standards and records show—it has scarcely changed through the centuries, and the various standards of different countries today are much alike. The Poodles of today are a trifle higher on the leg, as well as longer and narrower in the head and muzzle than formerly. If this fashion in type does not become too exaggerated, it improves the natural grace and beauty of the breed.

The standard demands that the Poodle be any solid or even color. The skin of some of the best whites is pigmented, that is, it is pink with silver or gray spots. The pure pink skin usually implies albinism, with succeeding generations being prone to light-colored noses, light eyes, and red eye rims and deafness. In England today there is an increasing demand for the so-called "silver skinned whites," which color is a solid silver skin produced by a black outcross or two in the immediately preceding generations. All white and cream Poodles should have black eyes and noses, as do some apricots.

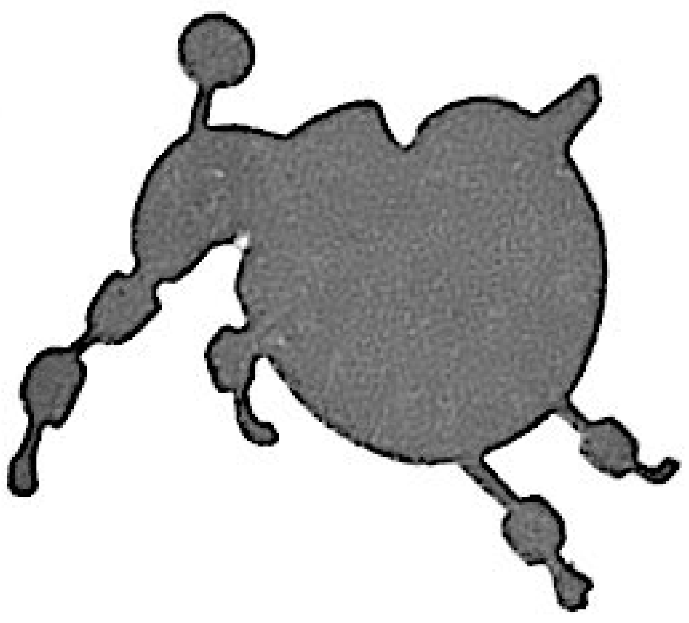
The skin of the blacks and grays is either light bluish or matches in a lighter shade the color of the hair: the browns have a light brown skin, and the apricots usually a brown skin.

The coat of the Poodle should be profuse and have a woolly body or undercoat. The top coat is either of steel-wool, wiry texture, or of thick, close curls. The coat if allowed to grow indefinitely, without brushing and oiling to prevent breaking, will form thin cylindrical mats, which when increased in length become a mass of ropelike cords. Thus the curly Poodle becomes a corded Poodle. Today, however, the corded Poodle has been conceded by most breeders to be impractical to keep in condition as well as to destroy abilities of a naturally active and stylish, moving animal. The corded Poodle cannot take proper exercise because of very long cords touching the ground.

The various styles of clipping the curly Poodle are a matter of taste. The two seen most today are the Continental, which leaves the hindquarters bare, with rosettes on the hips and hocks; and the English or saddle clip, in which a short, clipped blanket of hair covers the hips. The fashion of clipping the Poodle has sometimes been called artificial, even detrimental to the dignity of the breed, but it is such an ancient tradition and in many ways so practical, that it is certain to continue. One has only to know a Poodle for a brief time to realize that its great natural dignity, vitality, and sportsmanship are not diminished but rather enhanced by this unique and ancient style of clipping parts of the coat. Unlike those of other long-coated dogs, the clipped feet and muzzle of the Poodle do not carry dirt—an important advantage for a house dog and pet for children.

Next to soundness and intelligence, the most necessary attribute of the Poodle is style, which is produced by a natural liveliness of action and the proportions of length and height.

How, What and Where To Buy That Poodle



There are two ways to acquire a puppy, either by gift or purchase. If someone loves, respects, and admires you enough to give you a poodle, the ecstasy and torment of selection will be one worry less. Let us assume, however, that although you are worthy of this gift, you just don't happen to know anyone who wants to give away a Poodle (very few people do).

We shall consider acquisition by purchase in the following paragraphs: Get a list of reliable breeders by writing to the secretary of The Poodle Club of America, % The American Kennel Club, 221 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, New York. There are branches in the East, the Middle West, the Pacific Coast, and Honolulu, and you will be directed to kennels in your vicinity. Write to the kennels that are conveniently situated. Your letter should contain your preferences as to age, sex, size, color, and price. In the long run, the purchase price is the smallest outlay. It costs just as much in money, time, and effort to rear an inferior puppy as it does to rear a good one, so get the best puppy your budget will allow. Take the breeder into your confidence and describe as fully as possible what you want. State whether you want the puppy purely, simply, merely, and everlastingly as a pet, as puppies that do not qualify as show prospects can be bought for less money.

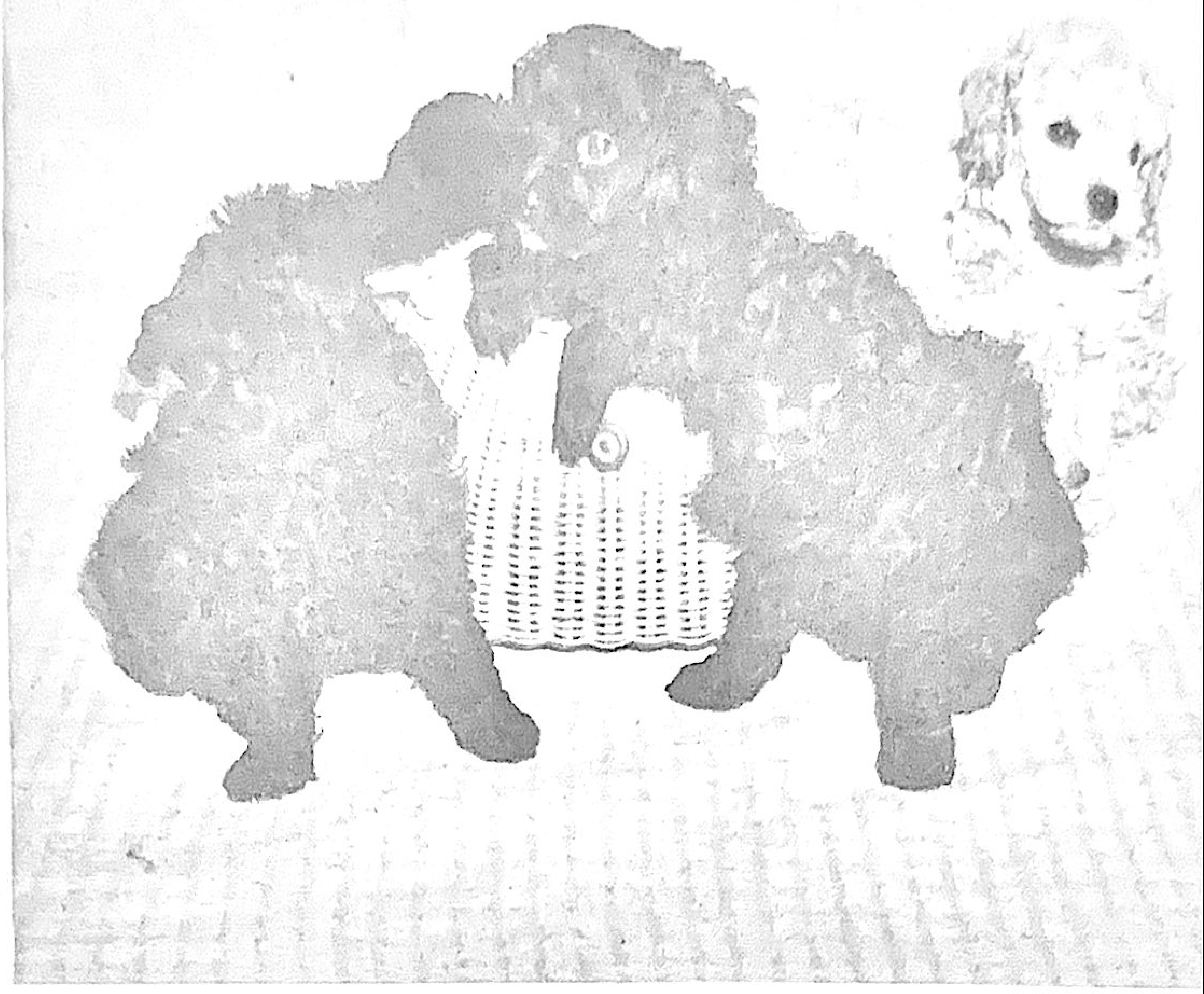
The breeder should tell you *why* the dog is not a likely show-ring prospect, and you should respect his confidence. Do not change your mind and decide to show him after all. It is a great blow to a breeder of show stock who has sold a puppy as a pet to find this same puppy, bearing his kennel prefix, parading around the show ring.

On the other hand, if you want a top-quality puppy, tell the breeder so. There is no guarantee that he will grow up to get his championship in three shows or four, or five, or ten, or at all, since it all depends on how he develops and what competition he will have to face. Most Poodle kennels are operated by amateur fanciers who want to see their stock in good hands and who will welcome a chance to consult with you and advise you at different stages of your Poodle's development; so if you intend to show him, keep in touch with his breeder.

When you visit the kennels, it is a very good idea, if possible, to see the parents of your dog, and to discuss with the breeder the individual traits of the family from which your prospective puppy is descended. After you have visited various kennels, your choice will narrow down to a dog that will appeal to your heart and not exceed the price you are willing to pay.

If you have a choice of several puppies offered at the same price, watch all of them at play with their brothers and sisters. Don't take the little shy one who sits in the corner and will not romp and play with the others. Take the bully, the one who is the most aggressive and the toughest. Have the breeder take him out of the pen and see whether he follows. A normal, healthy puppy will follow anyone out of sheer curiosity.

As to the physical side—look for a puppy with a short back, a solid body, strong bones, compact feet, small, dark eyes, ears set low and wide and long in leather; and above all take a puppy with a long neck who will be able to carry his mane proudly. Be sure the tail is carried straight up. The pup must be a solid color, except in the case of blues or silvers. Puppies of these two colors are usually born black, and it will take up to eighteen months before the color is clear.



Choosing a puppy from a litter such as these can be the toughest part of the whole thing.

Age Preference

The ideal time to acquire a puppy is just after he has been weaned. This may be any age from six weeks to three months. You get him before he has formed any bad habits and before he has given his heart to anyone, for then you can bring him out to be just as satisfactory in the long run, but it is much up in your way. Older puppies, or even grown dogs, may turn more trouble to break a dog of bad habits than to teach him good ones.

A word about the choice of sex. If you are thinking of starting a kennel, by all means select the best-bred bitch puppy you can, because when she is old enough you will be able to breed her to a proven champion sire on payment of a stud fee. Some breeders will take choice of the ensuing litter instead of a fee. In the dog world it is the male who must wait for a proposal—he is the one who must wait to be asked. I have had many plaintive inquiries from owners of male Poodles who say, "We would like to have a puppy of Jocko's and we are willing to breed him to any one of your bitches. You can keep all but one, we want only one puppy." Unfortunatelv, the breeder must consider that some of the puppies in a litter must be sold in order to keep the kennel going. He will breed to a dog who has made his mark in the show ring and whose puppies at birth will have the value and prestige of his name. The only way for you to get offspring from a dog you love (unless he is a winner) is to buy him a mate; so start with the bitch, for then you will have your choice of a sire.

If you want a pet, and have no intention of raising Poodles, then the following sex differences should be borne in mind. The male is usually larger and more aggressive, and he does not come in season. The bitch comes in season on the average of twice a year, the period lasting approximately three weeks from start to finish. When she is not in season she is not interested in other dogs; while the dog is, in this respect, in season the year round. The bitch is easier to housebreak than the dog because she is able to empty her bladder completely at one evacuation. The dog must lift his leg a number of times before he is relieved. (If you have ever walked a dog along the city streets you will realize the truth of this statement.) Sometimes lifting the leg is merely a form of courtesy in a dog, corresponding to the gesture of a gentleman's lifting his hat. It is a holdover from the days when the wild dog roamed the woods visiting a tree or stone to leave his "card" for the next comer to consult this bulletin board. After all, it is not so remote from the forest trees to the city hydrant, so if you decide on a male for your pet you will have to keep walking him longer than a bitch, which in bad weather is something to remember.

The bitch is softer in character, gentler, more inclined to take responsibility, and she is usually fonder of very young children than a dog. In some breeds the bitch is inclined to stay closer to home and the dog is inclined to roam, but I have never found this to be true of Poodles, and I have been raising them since 1931.

Size and Color

Poodles are divided into three sizes: the toy, ten inches or under; the miniature, under fifteen inches and over ten at the shoulder: and the standard, fifteen inches or over.

The Toy Poodle is what the name implies—a charming, live toy. He has all the characteristics of the big Poodles except size. So long as the dog is definitely a toy, diminutiveness is the only deciding factor. Soundness and activity are every bit as necessary in a toy as in a large Poodle. He possesses the qualities which have endeared the Poodle to all who know him: gaiety, affection, liveliness, intelligence, wit, adaptability, and courage. Because of his small size he is very easy to carry about; therefore, to a prospective owner who travels and moves about a great deal, the Toy Poodle would be a package job with all the above-mentioned qualities.

The Miniature Poodle is perfect for a home that is the right size for a Fox Terrier. He also is small enough to pick up when you cross a muddy street, and he can be carried under your arm or in a container.

The Standard Poodle is everything that the other two are, only more so. He is big enough to be efficient as a watchdog. He is strong enough to protect you if you go for walks by yourself. He can be trained to retrieve ducks, since he is a strong swimmer

With these differences in mind, you can choose a Poodle that will best fit into your home and your mode of life.

Color—Any solid color is allowed by the standard as adopted by the American Kennel Club, so the choice of color is entirely a matter of individual preference.

Be sure that your puppy is one of a litter registered in the American Kennel Club Stud Book and, therefore, eligible for registration. If the litter is not registered, neither your tears nor prayers, neither your piety nor wit will serve to inscribe his name in the appropriate number of this exclusive volume.

Preparing the Way For the New Poodle

Let's start at the beginning. After you have decided to get a Poodle, the first thing you must do is to prepare a place for him in your home—in your heart the place has already been prepared. You must have a place for him to sleep, and you must have a place for him to exercise. A young puppy needs rest as much as he needs food.

Make a little outdoor run for him, or prepare a corner of the garage by enclosing it with wire. If you have decided on a Standard Poodle it is best to provide a gate to the run, because the puppy will grow so fast that pretty soon you won't be able to lift him in and out of it. (Indoor sleeping arrangements are covered under the topic Housebreaking.) These two preparations are essential. You will find that it is very reassuring to leave your dog in a safe place when you go away and cannot take him with you. You will need a supply of dog food, two separate dishes (one for milk and one for solid food), a collar, a leash, and a chain (never a harness). The best collar for a Poodle is a round, light one that will not spoil the growth of hair around his neck. The leash should be light but strong, and the chain as light as possible.

Get him a few educational toys. In selecting the toys, avoid anything made of wood or leather, which will make him think it is all right to chew your shoes or gnaw your furniture. A hard ball of solid rubber is best for your puppy. Don't give him a bone to play with: chewing a bone will result in overdevelopment of the jaw muscles and may make his second teeth come in crooked. Even after he gets his adult teeth don't give him a bone. He will wear his teeth down on a hard bone, or splinter a soft one with disastrous results. The splinter may pierce the intestines, or an accumulation of unassimilated calcium may result in an impacted rectum. When you are all set for his homecoming, go and get him.

If you bring him home in a car, you may have to take along a few newspapers or an old rag in case he gets car-sick, although as a general rule a young puppy travels well. However, should he start to drool, stop to let him out, resuming your journey when he is feeling better. You can break him eventually of car sickness by taking him with you in the car every day, starting with a turn around the block and gradually increasing the distance. Don't feed him until after he gets home.

If your puppy has never worn a collar or a leash, *carry* him into the place you have prepared for him (in a city apartment it is usually the bathroom with newspapers carefully spread on the floor; if in the country, to the little outdoor run you have prepared for him). When he has relieved himself, put him in his crate and go away and leave him for at least an hour. Don't pay any attention to him when he yells; if you go to him every time he cries you will never be able to leave him alone, and your social life will suffer. It is very important to teach a dog to stay by himself—just as important as it is to teach him to stay with you.

When he has finished crying and goes to sleep (of course, I do not guarantee that the puppy will cry—he might be one of the rare ones who adapts himself without protest), you will have a few minutes to sit and gloat, and after about an hour take him out, carry him in your arms to the place you want him to consider his bathroom, and make a great big fuss about him as soon as he has accomplished his mission. Then give him a drink of warm milk and take him out again. Let him play and romp and get acquainted with you. Talk to him constantly so that he gets to know the sound of your voice.

A Recipe for Healthy, Handsome Poodle Pups

Although it is not my purpose to prescribe any special diet in this booklet, I can tell you which one I have found to be most successful in raising puppies. You can try it if the diet your puppy's breeder has given you is not convenient.

Between the ages of six and eight weeks, a puppy must be fed five times a day, at approximately three-hour intervals:

First meal—Tepid milk, either fresh or evaporated, in which you have soaked good puppy meal; there are a great many such meals on the market. The mixture should have the consistency of thick soup, and the quantity should be proportionate to the capacity of the puppy. Give him as much as he will eat without taking his head out of the pan. If he does not clean it up, take the food away and don't give him any more until the next scheduled time for feeding. The puppy himself will tell you how much to give him; if he leaves any food, give him less at the next meal.

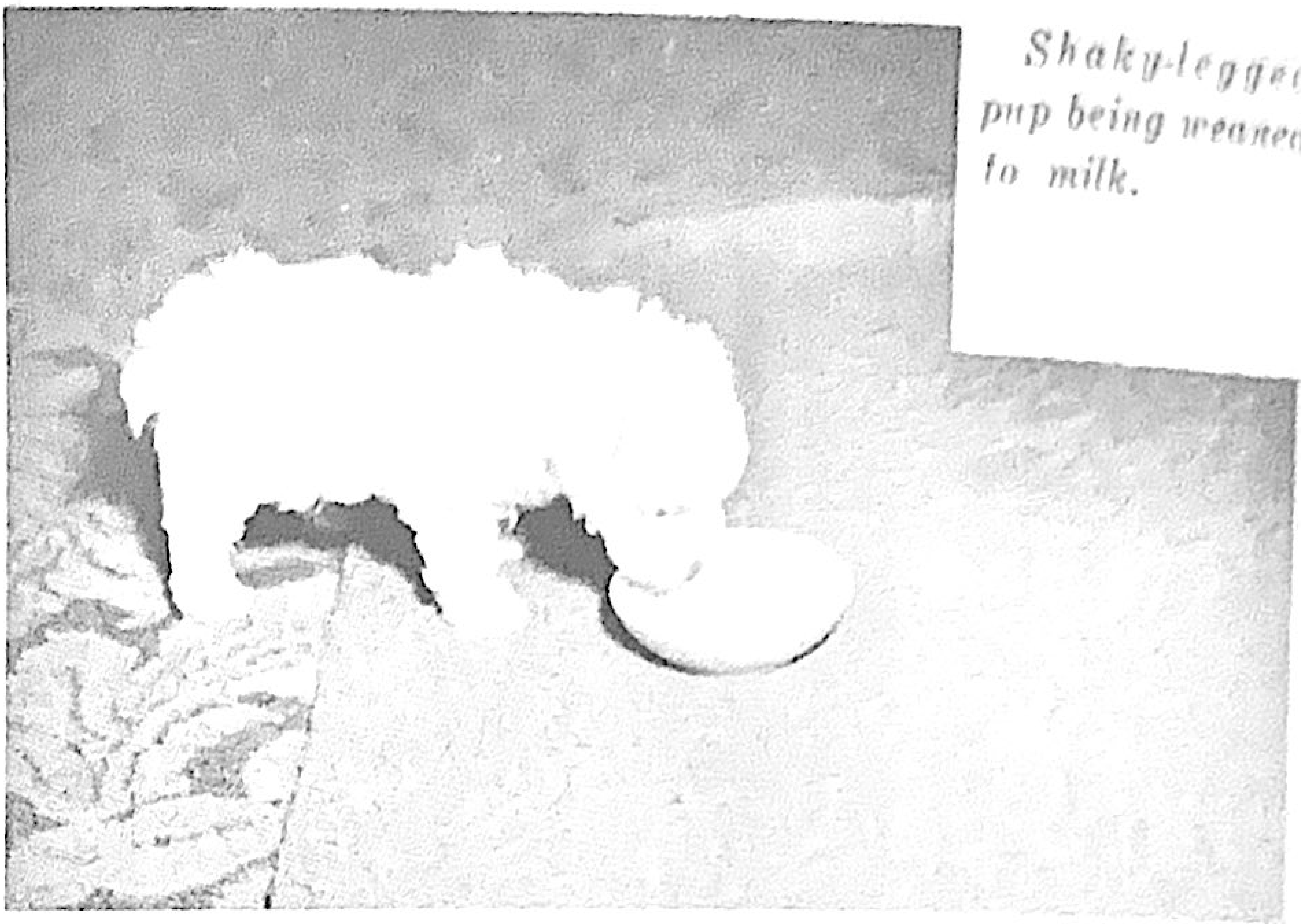
Second meal—Cover a handful of any broken biscuit with milk and let it soak for at least three hours before feeding. Add an equal quantity, by weight, of ground raw, or cooked meat, mix thoroughly, add six drops of concentrated cod-liver oil and a pinch of salt.

Third meal—This consists of another meal of milk, to which

Hand dryer helps speed drying after bath.

Professional groomer begins overdue job.

A pet owner can pick up some good pointers by having professional groomer trim the dog the first time, and by watching the operation. Poodle being groomed in these photos is Standard. At right, groomer and Poodle pose for final inspection.



Shaky-legged pup being weaned to milk.

you may add the yolk of an egg. If you want to give your puppy the whole egg, it must be boiled, poached, or coddled; the raw white of an egg sometimes disagrees with puppies, resulting in digestive upsets or skin trouble.

Fourth meal—Duplicate the second meal, but omit cod-liver oil.

Fifth meal—Warm milk fortified with a tablespoonful of dried milk. After the puppy has finished his last meal, give him plenty of opportunity to exercise and to empty his bladder and bowels before putting him away for the night.

This diet may not suit your puppy. You may have to experiment in order to locate the right formula, just as pediatricians sometimes must try several different formulas before finding the right one for a baby.

Any fresh meat, except pork, will suit your puppy; use horsemeat, beef, or lamb. You can give him table scraps, provided there is enough meat in them and not too much fat. Strangely enough, the best cuts of meat are not the best food for dogs. I have known of dogs whose adoring owners fed them only the very best cuts of lean beef to suffer from malnutrition. In feeding your puppy you can use flank, cheek, jowl, brisket, shoulder, shin, etc. Entrails, such as liver, hearts, kidneys, lung, or tripe, must be thoroughly cooked before they are ground and should not be fed until the puppy is four months old. Even then, gland meat should be added gradually to the other meat, a tablespoonful to start with, not more than once a week. I have found horsemeat very satisfactory. Any change of diet may result in loose stools, so avoid a sudden switch.

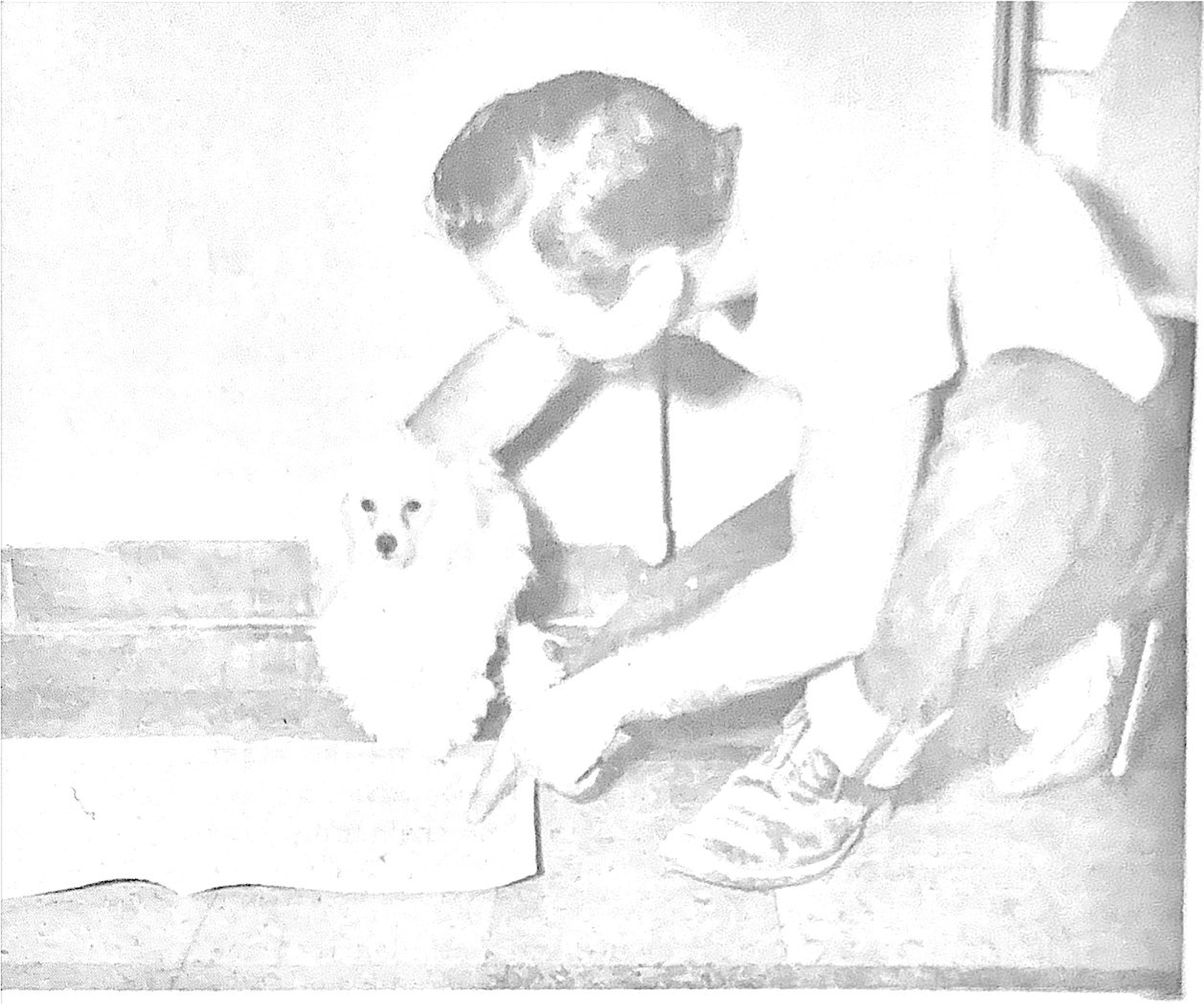
As the puppy grows older his meals become fewer and larger. At three months give him four meals a day, omitting the night feeding. At six months two meals are sufficient; after a year feed your dog once a day. Feed him at a time that suits your household routine; any time will do, so long as you feed him at the same time every day.

Do not leave a bowl of water handy for your dog to drink whenever he is thirsty, but give him a drink of milk or water at regular intervals. The quantity you have to decide for yourself—it depends upon the needs of your dog. Bear in mind that if you let a puppy drink as much liquid as he wants, you will have a much harder time housebreaking him.

Although some dogs will not drink milk after they have matured, a small quantity daily will supply the calcium requirement—milk is calcium in its most assimilable form. Make sure that your dog gets milk either by sprinkling dried milk over his meat, or by continuing to soak in milk the crackers which you mix with the meat.

Grooming

Start to brush your puppy the first day you get him home. You will find it convenient to have a small folding table covered with a corrugated rubber top to keep him from slipping. The table should be of the right height for you to work on the dog without stooping. A brush with coarse bristles, well set apart, is most satisfactory when the puppy is young. Make him sit



One of the first steps in housebreaking a puppy is to introduce him to a newspaper. For best results, catch the puppy when he is starting to look for a spot to relieve himself, and place him on the newspaper. When he has performed properly, praise him. Repeat until he gets the idea.

or lie down on the table, and starting at the tail, brush forward toward his head. Be sure to brush carefully under the ears and around the neck. Then do his legs, starting at the feet and then brushing upward toward the body. A thorough brushing once a week is all that is necessary to keep your puppy in condition. Even when he is mature this will be enough; but remember, as he grows older and larger and his coat gets denser and longer brushing will take more time. You can brush out a young puppy thoroughly in half an hour, but it will take two or three times as long when his coat is full. Your puppy will learn to enjoy this daily grooming. One dog of my acquaintance always fetched his own brush.

Bathing—Unless your puppy rolls in a mud hole (or something) it will not be necessary to bathe him. In the case of an emergency, if you cannot possibly live with the puppy without giving him a thorough washing, then bathe him. Move his table into the garage or into the bathtub and put the dog on it. Before starting the bath his eyes and ears must be protected from soap and water by squeezing a small quantity of yellow oxide of mercury or a drop of castor oil in each eye and putting cotton into each ear. Wet him thoroughly with a hand spray, using lukewarm water, never hot or cold. Use a good soap which does not contain too much alkali, soaping the puppy thoroughly by starting at the head and working your way back toward the tail. Then rinse the black soap suds out thoroughly with the spray, and repeat the procedure. This time the suds will be pale gray; rinse and wash until the suds are white as snow. Rinse thoroughly, then wrap the puppy in a towel, squeeze most of the water out, and rub him vigorously. If it is a nice day, spread a clean cloth in the sun and let him shake and rub himself on it. I strongly recommend keeping him on a leash until he is thoroughly dry—otherwise he is apt to make for the nearest mud hole and roll in it. As soon as you put him down he will shake himself, so don't put him in a room where water might damage the furniture. Finish him up with a good brushing and show him off to the family. They should exclaim over him in exaggerated terms to make him think that having a bath is a great accomplishment of *his*.

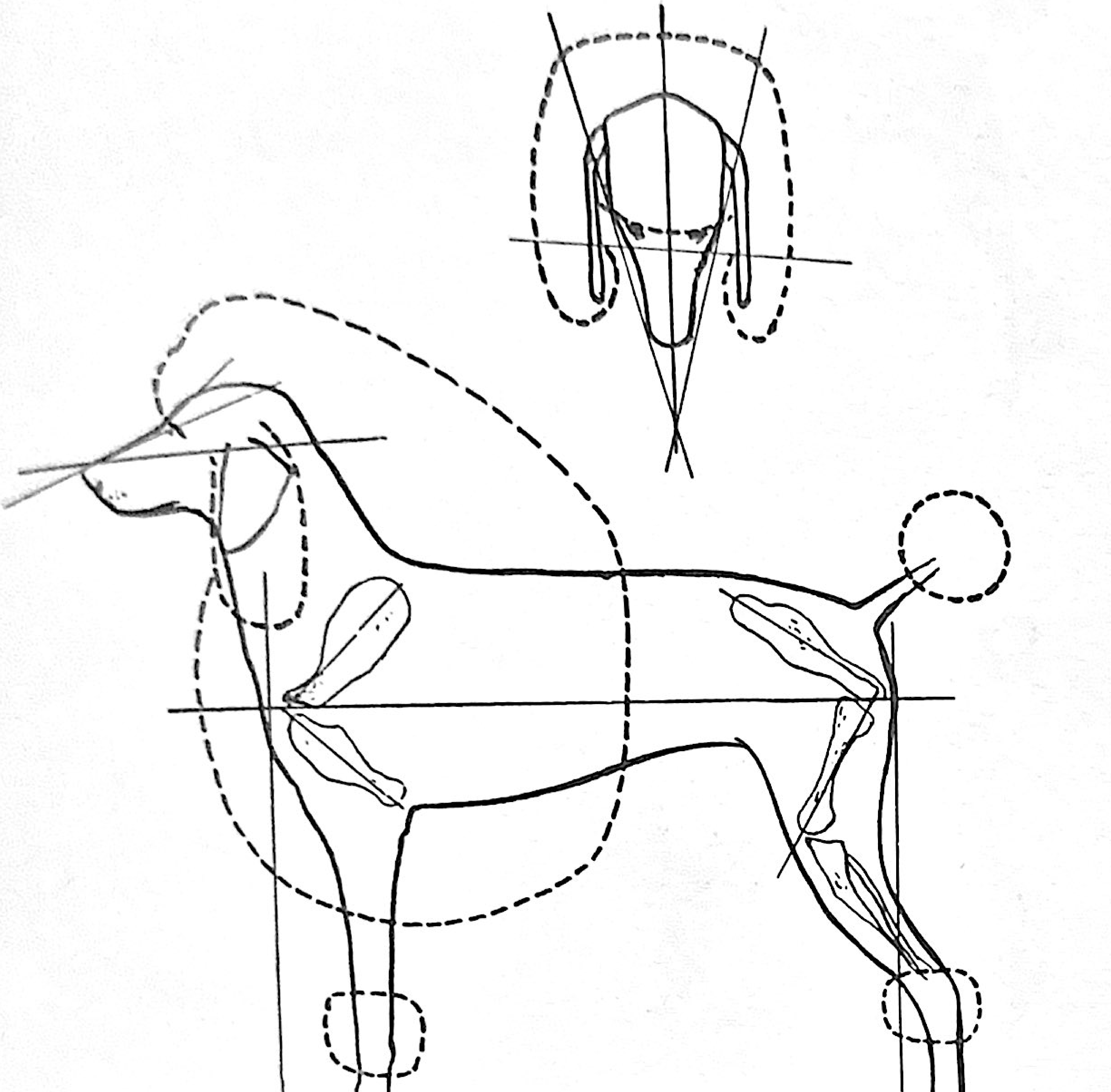
The reason I like to use a spray on a table is that immersing a puppy in a tub of water may frighten him. Besides, it is very difficult to get the soap out unless you turn him upside down, which is not likely to make him enjoy a bath.

Trimming

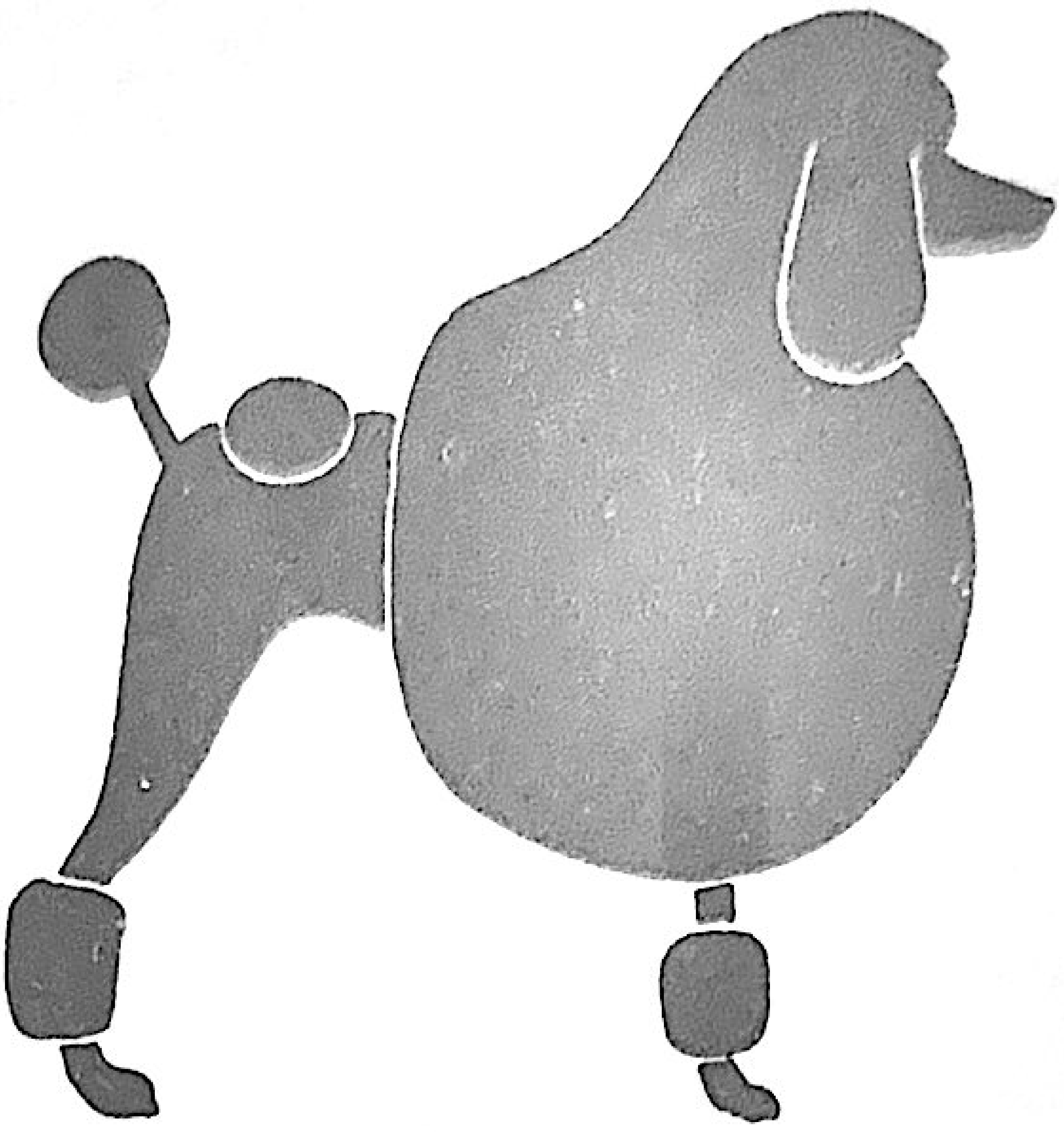
One thing which sets a Poodle apart from any other dog is the way he is trimmed. Any time after he is eight weeks old the puppy should have his face, feet, and the base of his tail shaved; so when you buy your puppy, why not invest in an electric clipper at the same time? Although the initial cost may run to forty dollars, you will save that sum a hundred times over if you learn to trim your dog yourself. It is not difficult, and you can learn to be very skillful. Moreover, you will soon find that certain proportions in relation to the shaved area and the long coat are more becoming to your dog than others. Knowing him as no one else does, you will take pride in bringing out his best qualities. A Poodle trim can be as flattering or unflattering as a hair style.

I advise you to watch an experienced operator trim a dog before you try it. If you have bought your Poodle from a reliable kennel, the kennel man or the owner will be glad to teach you. It is a great satisfaction to breeders to see their stock in good hands and looking well; in fact, that is the best advertisement they can possibly get.

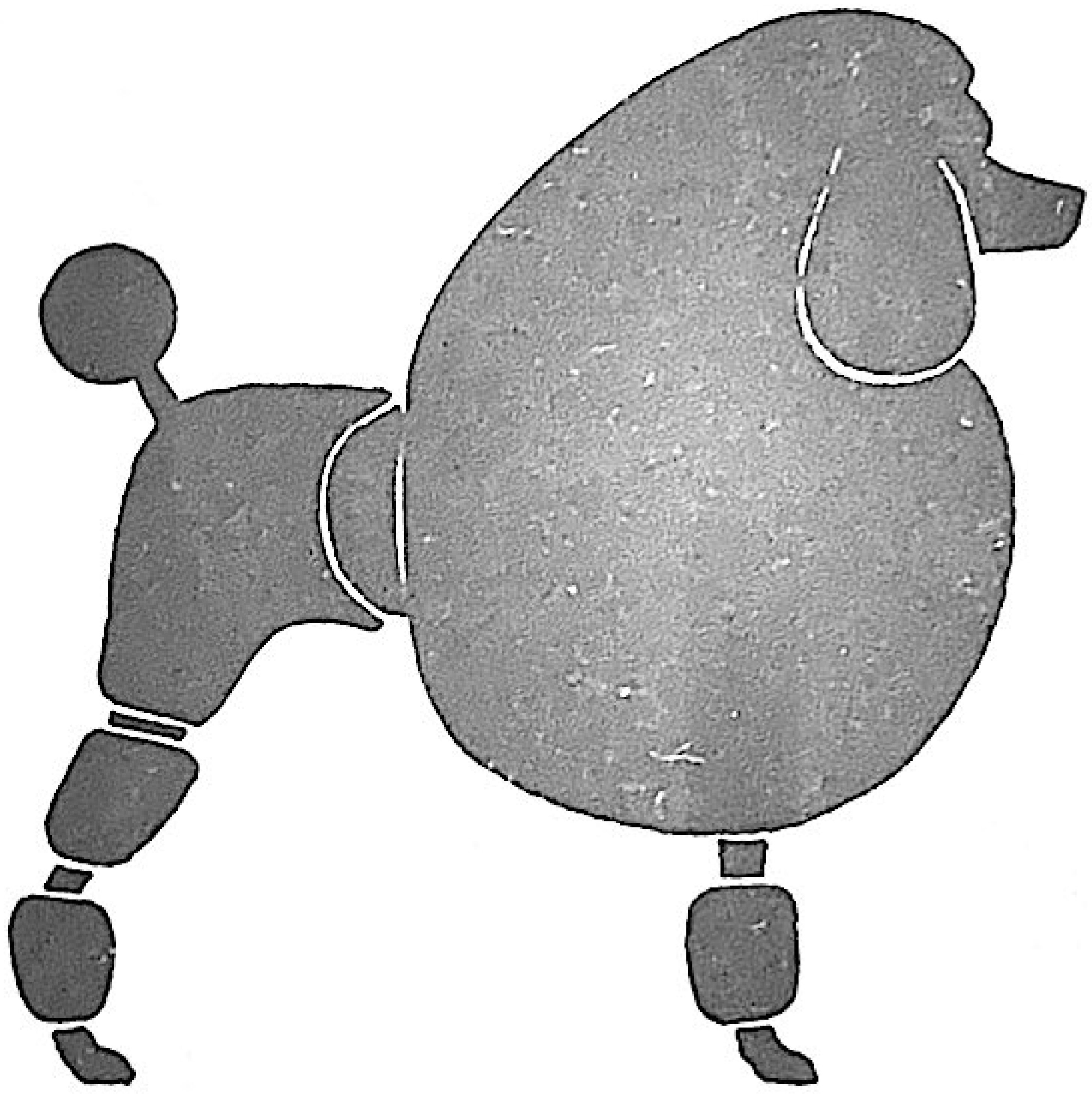
After your puppy has had his tail trimmed for the first time, he will probably feel very unhappy about it. The cold air strikes the root of his tail; the short hair left by the clipper itches and pricks him. He will sit down and bite at it; when he does move, the poor little tail will be at half staff, the pom-pom lowered. You can do much to make him forget his discomfort by rubbing the newly-shaved areas with a good hand lotion or after-shave lotion.



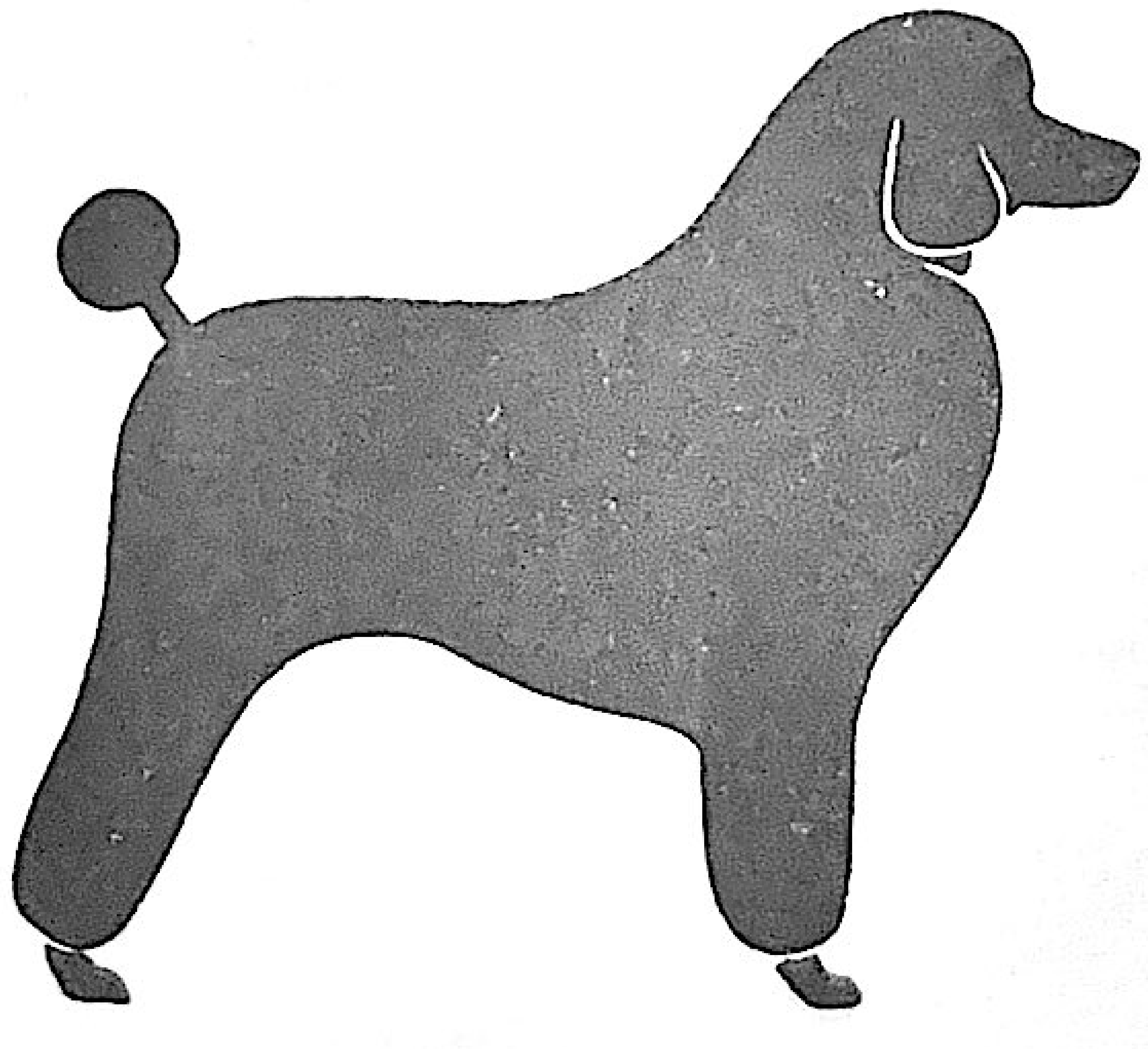
When you start to trim your puppy yourself, use the following procedure: Introduce the puppy to the clipper gradually. Put him on the table and show him the clipper, rubbing it around his face, tail, and feet, *before* turning on the current. Pat him and give him a tidbit of some kind so that he will associate the clipping operation with a certain amount of pleasure. Then turn on the current and put the clipper on the table next to



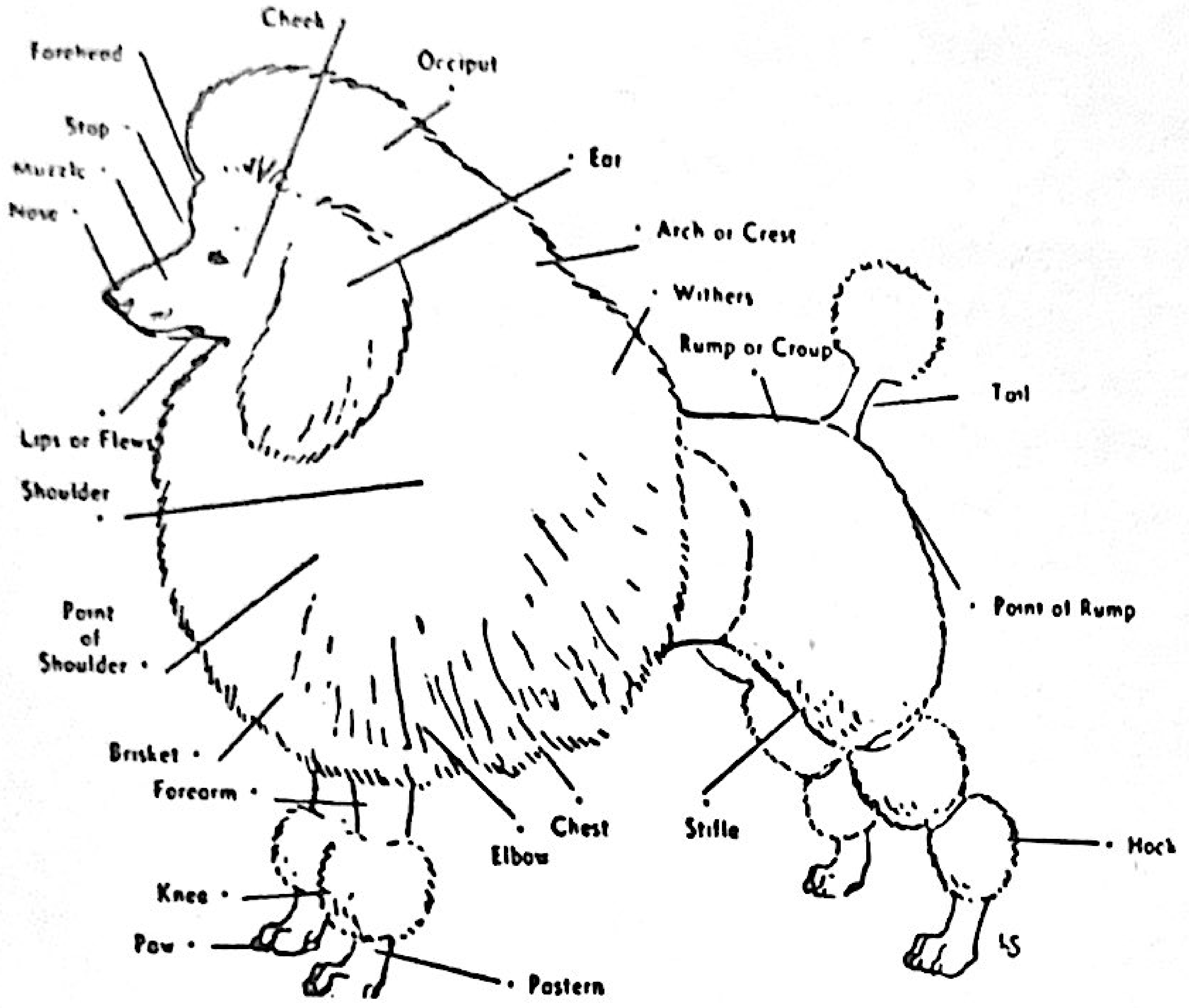
Continental



English Saddle



Puppy or Working


Cheek
Forehead
Occiput
Stop
Muzzle
Nose
Ear
Arch or Crest
Withers
Rump or Croup
Tail
Lips or Flews
Shoulder
Point of Rump
Point of Shoulder
Brisket
Forearm
Chest
Stifle
Hock
Elbow
Knee
Paw
Pastern

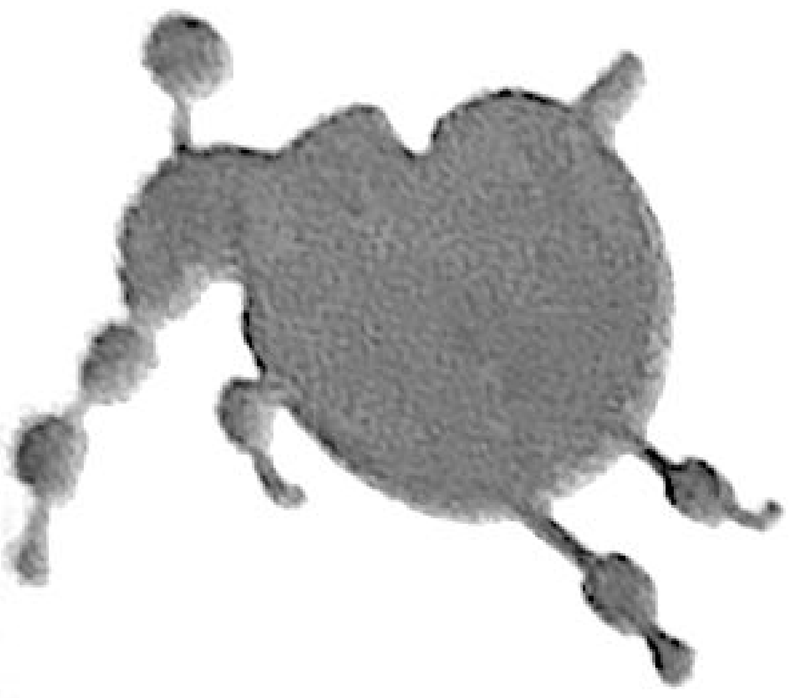
This drawing shows the proper designations for the various parts of the dog. It does not necessarily portray the ideal Poodle.

him to let him get accustomed to the noise. It is best to start with his hind feet, then do the front ones, and last of all the face. Hold the clipper firmly in your hand and be careful not to stretch the skin, which may cause irritation. Clip with a fluid movement and do not press too hard. After you have finished the feet you can start on the head, provided the clipper has not heated up too much. It is a good idea to have two heads and change them as they become overheated, but in a one-poodle household you can manage with only one head—it just takes a little longer. Several sessions may be necessary before the puppy gets used to trimming and you get used to trimming him, but after all you two will be learning together.

Care of ears and nails—It is necessary to remove the hair growing inside the poodle's ear and to keep the ear scrupulously clean. This can be done by plucking out the hair with an eyebrow tweezer and wiping out the inside ear with a piece of cotton moistened with a little olive oil or petroleum jelly. Do not use ether or alcohol, as this irritates the skin of the ear. You may have to use the oil treatment more often, but your puppy will be better for it in the long run. His ears should be treated every week to prevent an accumulation of ear wax.

Nails—If your puppy gets sufficient exercise on concrete or pavement, he will keep his nails short by wearing them down. If they grow too long, his feet will spread and lose their compact arch. So watch his nails and keep them short, either by filing them or clipping them with a dog nail clipper, but be careful not to go into the quick of the nail. There is a vein running into the toe which, if exposed, may cause excessive bleeding.

Training a Poodle



It Requires Patience, Patience and Patience

In order to train your Poodle there are three absolute essentials: patience, Patience, and *Patience.*

Do not expect anything of your puppy until he knows you. When you first get him, talk to him constantly so that he becomes familiar with the sound of your voice. When you are ready to teach him, only three tones of voice will be necessary: a firm, clear tone in giving orders, a stern tone for reprimands, and an enthusiastic, encouraging tone for accomplishments.

Always use the same word to reprimand. It does not matter what that word is as long as you do not change it. If you say "Don't do that!" one time and "Bad dog!" the next, and "Pfui!" on a third occasion, your puppy will become confused. I have found that a simple, firm "*No!*" can be understood easily by a very young dog, if you use it every time he does something you don't want him to do. Say "Good boy!" "Good girl!" or "Good dog!" when he obeys.

Never start to train your dog when you are in a hurry. He may learn very quickly or it may take hours to get the lesson through his head. It is *essential* that you give no order without seeing that it is carried out.

Only one person should give an order to the dog, whether he obeys it at first or not; the trainer (whoever undertakes to train the puppy) must persist until the dog obeys him. Very often, if a dog does not respond to the first command, the whole family starts calling to him. I cannot overemphasize the damage and confusion which will result. In fact, you will find that it is impossible to train your dog unless you follow this rule.

Always remember that the trait that sets dogs apart from all other animals is their willingness to work for a reward of the most intangible nature—the approval of their masters. For every other animal the reward must be something practical, such as food. Punishment, whether it is an electric shock or a slap, is just as tangible. Dogs, however, when they have become attached to their masters are rewarded sufficiently by a casual caress or an encouraging word, just as a disappointed or disapproving word may be potent punishment. You will find that even the anticipation of such favor or disfavor will clearly control your dog's behavior. Rely entirely upon his eagerness to serve, once the master-dog relationship has been established. Your dog will be motivated by the love he bears you, and there will be no need for punishment or reward.

The ideal housedog—To be completely satisfactory, the ideal housedog should: (1) answer to his name, (2) be leash-broken, (3) be housebroken, (4) stay off the furniture. (5) keep away from the table at mealtime, (6) keep his front feet on the floor and not on you.

Teaching the dog his name—First, of course, you must decide what you are going to call your Poodle and when you have decided, stick to it. Once your puppy has learned his name, you will save a great deal of time in his future training. The easiest way to teach him this is to associate the name with something pleasant. Feed him a harmless tidbit, a morsel of puppy biscuit, a milk tablet, or a crisp cracker every time you say it. When you are out with him, call his name, and when he comes to you, give him another morsel. Praise and pat him when he comes willingly. You will find shortly that his name will be a signal for him to come to you at once.

Leash breaking—Use a leash, *never* a harness. It is not advisable to put a harness on any dog. In the first place, it teaches him to pull, and in pulling, the strain against the harness is liable to make him develop an incorrect gait and to spread the elbows. Besides, it is not much fun to walk a dog that is continually tugging on the leash and pulling you with him. You will want to have your dog follow on a loose line with the leash slack, and you can never teach him to do this with a harness. For a Poodle a harness is especially undesirable. He will never develop a coat, with the harness rubbing against his shoulder and back, where the great Poodle mane develops.

You can start to teach your puppy to wear a collar as soon as you get him. In fact, the younger he is, the easier it will be for him to learn. Do it slowly and gradually. First, put on the collar and play with him. He will probably sit down and try to scratch it off, or spin in circles trying to bite it. Pat him and try to divert his mind; take the collar off and then put it on again. Repeat this until he knows the collar is part of his daily equipment, and then attach the leash, allowing it to hang from the collar without holding it. Call the puppy, and, walking away from him briskly, pick up the leash and continue to walk. If he pulls back, drop the leash, pat him and continue walking, picking up the leash again as soon as he follows. He will soon learn that the leash is a link between the two of you, and he will associate it with the pleasure he derives from your attention. Keep him on leash in the house in connection with housebreaking (see under heading "*Housebreaking*").

If your puppy has trouble using the stairs in your house, you can teach him to go up and down as soon as he learns to obey a tug on the leash. When you and he have established a loving relationship, you will find that all you have to do is walk upstairs before him and he will scramble up. If, however, he has difficulty, and just sits at the bottom of the stairs and cries, put his front feet on the bottom step, raise up his hind legs to the same step, and repeat this until he has gone up two or three steps. Leave him in the middle of the stairs and keep on going, calling and coaxing him with the leash in your hand. He will have to go either up or down, and the chances are that he will follow you.

Remember, don't give up until your puppy has learned his lesson, even though it is easier to put it off to the next time. Habits of disobedience are easy to form and difficult to break once the dog has acquired them.

Housebreaking—An animal which in its wild state makes its home in a den will never defile its bed. In this category are cats, dogs, and their wild relatives, skunks, raccoons, foxes, bears, etc. Animals that sleep in trees, such as monkeys, can never be house-trained. Their beds, high up in the tree tops, are provided with natural plumbing. Not even the great apes, as Gargantua and his bride-in-fame Toto, could ever be taught that some places are not the right places. Fortunately we have to deal with a puppy, not a monkey, goat, or pony.

Over the years I have spent raising puppies I have learned that an ounce of prevention is worth ten *tons* of cure. Keep your puppy from making a mistake, teach him where to go when he wants to relieve himself, but never punish him after he has used the wrong place. In the first place, he won't know why he is being punished; and in the second, third, and fourth places he will be afraid of you. The understanding being established between the two of you begins to disappear, and you will have to start from scratch to revive it.

In order to apply this lesson, try to reproduce the natural habitat of a young dog in the wilds by making a "den" for *your* dog. The most practical way is to make or buy a box, well-ventilated, with a door which can be shut and fastened. This must be large enough for the puppy to lie down in comfortably, but not large enough for him to move around in freely. Put in a dog cushion or mattress that just fits, and remember that the secret of successful house-training is that an animal in normal health will never soil its bed. As a precaution, place the crate in your room where you can hear your puppy's first whimper in the morning and can carry him out-of-doors before he forgets the lesson which you have taught him.

Before you go to bed keep within reach something that you can get into quickly because there will not be much time between the puppy's first insistent cry and the race to get him out-of-doors in time. Be sure to *carry* him from his box to whatever place you have designated as the Right Place, for if you let him walk as much as one step out of his box, there is bound to be an accident, which you should avoid at all costs. After he has accomplished his mission, praise him, pet him, bring him indoors, and keep him on a leash indoors until you are sure he will keep the secret.

Your puppy must be taken out after each meal. Bring him in immediately when he is ready. This will teach him what he was taken out for. For the first week or so, keep him on a leash indoors except when he is in a box. Keep him on a leash close beside you, and if he starts sniffing or circling in a suspicious manner, pick him up and run—do not walk—to the nearest exit.

All this advice applies, of course, to housebreaking a puppy under favorable weather conditions; and it is one of the reasons why it is advisable to bring a puppy into his new home in the spring or summer. In winter the poor puppy, who cannot go out, must be trained to use newspaper.

To teach the puppy to use newspaper, the same procedure has to be used. Pick him up in the morning and put him on the paper. You can, if necessary, surround the sleeping box with newspapers and just open the door in the morning. I am convinced he will use them. Gradually move the papers farther and farther away from the box so that the puppy will learn to look for them. It won't be long before you can let him off the leash, provided you remember to put a few sheets of paper somewhere in the room.

Stay off the furniture—To teach your dog to stay off the furniture is very simple—just don't let him get on it. If you get him as a small puppy, he will not be able to climb on a chair or a sofa by himself. As he grows older a firm, discouraging "No!" will be found most effective, should he attempt to stretch out on the new living room divan. If your dog has already formed this habit, watch him carefully for the first few days. Every time he gets up on the furniture, make him come down and make him understand that it is not his place. You may want to designate one old chair that he can have for his own. If so, point the chair out to him, let him get up on it, pat him, say "Good dog!" but do just the opposite if he tries to get on any other chair. He will soon learn which chair is his.

Keeping away from the table at mealtime—Unless you want to have a sick, spoiled, overfed dog, a nuisance instead of a pleasure, do not feed him tidbits from the table at mealtime or encourage him to beg for table scraps. Be sure that he is fed before you sit down to your main meal. He may come into the dining room if you want him to, but he should be taught to stay in one place while the family is at the table. The best way to do this is to screw an eye into the wall to which is attached a light chain with a swivel and fasten the dog by his collar. You will find that after a little fussing he will lie down, and in a short time he will go to his place without being fastened. When you release him after the meal, give him a great deal of encouragement and make him realize what a wonderful thing he has done by staying quietly and letting you dine in peace. Actually, the eye and swivel idea can be carried out in a corner of the kitchen, of the bedroom, or wherever you are, in order to teach the puppy that certain places in the house are permitted him and other places are not.

Keep his feet on the floor instead of on you—It is perfectly natural for a puppy to leap on you in a burst of affection. You may not mind it at first, especially if his paws are clean, but there will come a day when, neatly dressed, you are leaving the house for an important engagement, and your puppy will rush in from outdoors with muddy paws and leap all over you in a burst of affection. Then it is too late to teach him that it is wrong. If he has been allowed this demonstration, you cannot discourage it at a moment that is inconvenient for you.

The first time your puppy puts his feet on you, step back from him saying "No" in a reproving tone, and repeat every time he jumps up. Don't slap his face with your hand to make him get down; he must always associate your hand with the pleasure of a caress. Should he persist in his efforts to reach you, step on his hind toes while his front feet are off the ground. He will think that putting his front paws on you hurts his hind feet in some mysterious way, and he will learn very soon to keep all four feet on the ground at all times.

Leave Your Dog at Home For the First Few Shows

Let us assume that the puppy you bought as a show prospect has developed into a fine specimen, and that you have decided to show him in competition with other Poodles. You may be influenced to do this by the fact that a champion can command a higher stud fee, and that his puppies will sell for better prices than those of an unshown dog. The puppies of a bitch that has completed her championship will be more in demand and will bring more money; or you may just want the satisfaction of competition.

First of all, let me recommend that you attend a few shows without the dog: watch other Poodles in the show ring, observe the procedure, and study the various handlers. A good handler can help a dog to show to his best advantage, and you will learn from watching the professionals. If there is a dog club in your vicinity that holds puppy matches, by all means join it, and take your dog to the matches whenever possible. These matches are held by permission of the American Kennel Club, but as champion points are not awarded, your dog will get experience without being unduly penalized for the lack of it. Now what is a champion? A champion of record is a dog or bitch that has won fifteen points in open competition. Points are awarded according to the number of dogs entered in the various classes.

I cannot improve on the explanation of judging, approved by the American Kennel Club, and from which, through the courtesy of The Quaker Oats Company, I quote the following:

Judges

"The judges are persons who have been licensed by the American Kennel Club to officiate at the shows. Some persons are licensed to judge only one breed; some are licensed to judge several or many breeds, and a very few persons are licensed to judge all breeds.

"The judge is expected to judge each dog before him according to the standard adopted by the particular breed club and approved by the American Kennel Club.

"Physical conformation of the dog is of primary importance. Other factors found in all standards are condition of coat, ability to gait, or run, with an even movement, and general behavior in the ring.

"Obviously, all judges do not have the same opinion of each dog, and a dog that wins at one show may not win at the next show under a different judge and against other dogs. At this stage the 'sporting' factor enters for the exhibitor and his dog and explains why each show is a new venture for both.

"Dogs defeated at one stage or another as the judging progresses are not necessarily inferior specimens of the breed in the judge's opinion—the judge has simply given his opinion that the winning dog is nearer the standard of perfection for the breed, considering the condition and appearance of all the entries on the day of the judging, than the defeated dogs.

Five Classes

"In each breed the exhibitor has the opportunity of entering his dog in one of five classes generally scheduled. In some of the breeds there are more than five classes, as explained below. The same classes are provided for males and females, the classes for males being always judged first.

"1. *The Puppy Class* shall be for dogs six months and not exceeding twelve months of age. The age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the day preceding the show.

"2. *The Novice Class* is for a dog that has never won a first prize in a regular class at any shows, including Winners' Class, wins in Puppy Classes excepted. Only dogs whelped in the United States and Canada are eligible.

"3. *The Bred-by-Exhibitor Class* shall be for all dogs, except champions, six months of age and over, which shall be presently owned and exhibited by the same person or kennel who were

the recognized breeders on the records of the American Kennel Club.

"4. *The American-bred Class* is for all dogs (except champions) six months and over, born in the United States by reason of a mating which took place in the United States.

"5. *The Open Class* shall be for any dog six months of age or over, except in a member specialty club show held only for American-bred dogs, in which case the Open Class shall be only for American-bred dogs.

Winners and Reserve Winners

"After the winner in each of the above classes has been selected, all of the class winners of the sex are brought together and the best among them is chosen and designated 6. 'Winners' Dog' (best male). The second best is designated 7. 'Reserve Winners' Dog.'

"The 'Winners' Dog' is awarded points toward his championship—the number of points depending on the number of males that were shown in the classes of the particular breed judged. A dog must win points to become a champion, and no more than five points can be won at any show regardless of the number of dogs of the breed entered at the show.

"The same classes for females are then judged and 8. 'Winners' Bitch' (best female) and 9. 'Reserve Winners' Bitch' are selected. The 'Winners' Bitch' is likewise awarded a certain number of points toward her championship, depending on the number of females shown in the classes for the breed.

"The 'Winners' Dog' and 'Winners' Bitch' then compete against each other. The judge selects the better of the two, and the award 10. 'Best of Winners' is made.

"Then the males and females entered in the class for 11. 'Specials Only' (all of which must be champions of record) and any undefeated dogs which have competed at the show, only in classes other than the regular classes, are brought into the ring to compete against the male or female that has been chosen 10. 'Best of Winners.'

Best of Breed

"From all these dogs the judge selects the best one in his opinion and awards the 12. 'Best of Breed' or 12a. 'Best of Variety of Breed' ribbon to the one selected. (Some breeds have two varieties—beagles; some have three varieties—cocker spaniels.) That means the male or female selected has been judged to be the best dog of the 12. breed or 12a. variety entered in the show. In case no dogs are entered for 11. 'Specials Only' the dog previously selected as 10. 'Best of Winners' is automatically designated as 12. 'Best of Breed' or 12a. 'Best of Variety of Breed' without further judging.

Six Special Groups

"After the best dog of each breed has been selected at the show, the winning dogs meet in one of the six different groups—all sporting dogs designated "Best of Breed" meeting in the 13. Sporting Group, for example. This procedure is followed in the 14. Hound Group, the 15. Working Group, the 16. Terrier Group, the 17. Toy Group, and the 18. Non-sporting Group.

Final Judging

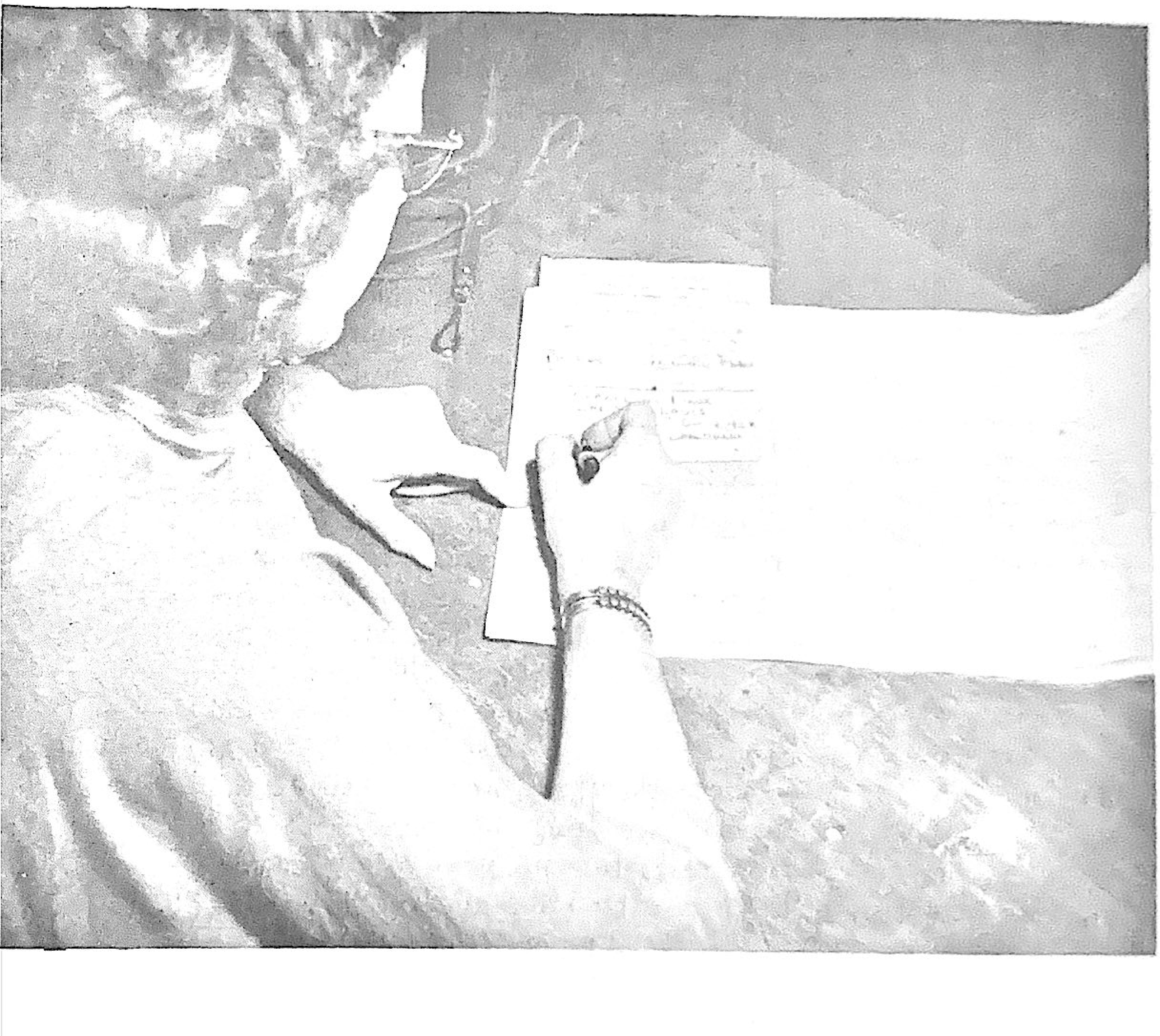
"The winner of each of these groups is then brought into the ring, and one of the six dogs is judged to be 19. 'Best Dog in Show.' (If this dog is not American-bred and if the classification provides for it, the judge then selects from the remaining five dogs 20. 'Best American-bred Dog in Show.' (See American-bred Class 3.)"

You are now thoroughly indoctrinated with dog-show procedure, and presumably you have decided to enter your dog in a forthcoming show. As he is not over a year old, he is eligible for the Puppy Class. It is to your advantage to show him in this class, because ring manners are not counted against a puppy, as they are against an older dog. The first thing you must do is to obtain a premium list and an entry blank; fill it out and mail it with the required fee to the bench show superintendent. You can obtain this blank by writing to the American Kennel Club or by asking for it at a show; there are always premium lists of forthcoming shows in the superintendent's office. In due time you will receive an exhibitor's identification ticket with your dog's catalog number. Printed directions as to how to get to the show are usually enclosed, as well as a timetable. Armed with this information, as well as the necessary equipment, you get up early in the morning and off you go to your first dog show.

You will enter the show ground through the gate marked "Exhibitors Only," where your dog will be inspected by a veterinarian before you can proceed to the bench marked with a number corresponding to the one marked on your exhibitor's ticket, which will also be the number of your dog listed in your catalog. Fasten him to his bench with a bench chain, familiarize yourself with the position of your ring, and find out at what time your class is likely to be called. Start brushing your dog about an hour before you expect to be called into the ring. You have not forgotten to bring your grooming table, your brushes, and your show leash.

When you get into the ring, the judge will probably tell you to move your dog around the ring. Be sure that you do not get between the judge and the dog. Trot him around briskly until the judge tells you to pose your dog. From then on it is up to you. Pay strict attention to the judge's directions, at the same time concentrating on the dog. Do not speak to the judge unless he speaks to you, and then answer his questions as briefly as possible. When the class is judged, the judge will place the dogs in front of the numbers one, two, three, and four, and will then hand four ribbons, a blue to the first dog, a red to the second, a yellow to the third, and a white to the fourth, the other dogs being excused from the ring.

Of course, you have won first prize with your lovely Poodle, so you take him back to his grooming table and get him ready to go into the ring again for the Winners' Class. Because of his youth and inexperience he does not get the winner's ribbon this time. Don't go away after the purple ribbon has been awarded; stay in the ring for the Reserve Winners' award. After that, according to the rules of the show, you either go home or you stay until the closing hour. In either case you take your blue ribbon home, sleep with it under your pillow, and dream of future dog shows.



First step to launching your Poodle on a show career is the filling out of the entry forms.

An Examination Is the First Step

The Poodle is one of the most interesting and popular breeds of dogs at the present time. The veterinarian is constantly seeing more Poodles in his practice—the standard, the miniature, and the toy. The health conditions of this breed are not very different from those of any other breed, with a few exceptions. Remember your best source of advice is a competent veterinarian in whom you have confidence.

An Early Physical Examination

Worms—If you have secured a puppy six or eight weeks of age, in fact, a dog of any age, it is wise to give the animal a thorough physical examination. This should include eyes, ears, skin and haircoat, chest, heart, and palpation of abdominal organs. A fecal examination will determine the presence or absence of intestinal parasites. If positive, the proper advice should be obtained for ridding the puppy of the offending parasites. Careful follow-ups of the microscopic examination of the stool are necessary until the examinations prove negative. It is inadvisable, and sometimes dangerous, to have an owner carry out an indiscriminate program of worming. Too frequent use of worm remedies may cause increased irritation to the mucous membrane of the intestinal tract as well as to other abdominal organs, such as the liver and kidneys, if not definite damage.

There are four commonly known intestinal parasites classified as worms, also some not so well known. The four mentioned are roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, and whipworms. The roundworm is the most readily observed in either vomitus or in the stool. Tapeworm is a white or pinkish-white segment one-half inch long in the stool or about the anus. Sometimes it is dried. The hookworm and whipworm, due to their small size, are not generally observed by the dog's owner. Also in the broad category of worms is a protozoan disease known as coccidiosis, which has a rather telling effect on young puppies.

Still another worm is the heartworm, which is found in the blood stream. Its presence is manifested by certain clinical symptoms known to the veterinarian. Accurate diagnosis is made by examination of the blood, in order that effective treatment may be applied. This condition is transmitted by certain mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, and lice.

At the time of this first physical examination, whether the dog is comparatively young or old, it is of primary importance that the hair be removed from the inside of the Poodle's ear. This does not hurt the dog if done properly and can be best accomplished by using a blunt-nose forceps. If this is neglected and a heavy growth of hair results, secretions may keep the ear moist with possible latent trouble, which may become chronic. Should your dog experience a mild or severe inflammation in the ear, use dry boric acid in it as a temporary treatment and then take the animal to a veterinarian for proper treatment.

Virus Diseases

There are two known important virus diseases against which your dog should be immunized, namely distemper and infectious canine hepatitis. Inquire of your veterinarian as to what would be the best method for protection of your dog. This procedure of immunization will undoubtedly be based on his age, condition, whether or not he reacts negatively to parasites, and whether there has been any recent known exposure to either or both viruses. There are several methods of immunization, and it is advisable to have one or two booster injections on completion of the regular program, because it is impossible to measure the extent of partial or complete immunity your dog may derive from these inoculations. The immunity is high, but not one hundred percent, which is the reason for legitimate booster injections.

Distemper is a contagious disease caused by a filterable virus. Symptoms are fever, catarrhal and respiratory disturbance associated with gastro-intestinal complications. There is no one symptom which is definitely diagnostic of the disease. It afflicts young dogs, generally a year-old or younger. The period of incubation is usually three to six days, although it may be longer. Early symptoms are watery eyes and nose, sometimes associated with vomiting, diarrhea, and cough. The disease does not run a set course, with recovery dependent on many factors, such as severity of infection, resistance and condition of animal, and good nursing. The owner should take his dog immediately to a veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.

Infectious canine hepatitis is also caused by a filterable virus. This disease generally attacks young dogs and is most severe in them, although older dogs may be affected. The incubation period is two to four days. Symptoms are apathy, inappetence, vomiting, diarrhea, high temperature; the dog may groan with pain; the tonsils are red and swollen, and the eyes watery; some spasms or convulsions may be present. Sometimes there is clouding of the eye. There is no known specific treatment. Good care and diet are the most valuable aids to effect a recovery from this disease.

Unfortunately, an animal may be affected with both viruses at one time. However, it can be protected by duo serum at an early age (six to eight weeks) and later receive immunity by a bi-valent vaccine administered at proper intervals by your vet.

Rabies is a virus disease of animals which may be communicated to man. This disease is transmitted by the bite of an infected animal or by the presence of infective saliva on an open abrasion or wound. The dog is a carrier of this disease, but it is also carried to a degree by wild animals. The severity or scarcity of the disease varies in different parts of the country. Animals may be vaccinated successfully against this disease.

Common Ailments

Anal glands are two separate glands adjacent to the anus. The gland is connected to the outside by means of a short duct. This duct empties into the rectum just inside the rectum at the mucocutaneous margin. An animal having irritation of these glands will exhibit the following symptoms—slide or sleighride on the ground, lick or attempt tc lick the region of the rectum, jump up quickly or look around quickly to the rectum. This trouble can be relieved by massage in the region of the anus. Sometimes these ducts become clogged while the mucous membrane of the gland continues to secrete and form additional material, which can result in abscesses. It is then necessary to treat this condition surgically. The condition sometimes becomes chronic, as it may be difficult to obtain proper drainage so that it will not recur. It may be necessary at a future date to remove the gland. A gland may also be a focus of infection with symptoms manifested elsewhere. If such is the case, it would need to be removed.

Constipation has many causes. It may be relieved by giving milk of magnesia, the dose ranging from a teaspoonful to three or four tablespoonfuls, depending on the size of the animal. It is sometimes necessary to give an enema or colonic. The bowel may be sluggish, and if so, it is essential to give a form of medication which will stimulate the bowel, and possibly the liver, to normal functioning. A Poodle that chews bones may experience difficulty with elimination. This may result not only in constipation but in obstipation, which is a serious and sometimes difficult condition. Be sure your animal eliminates regularly, at least once or twice per day, and observe carefully the consistency and color of the stool.

Coughs—A cough may be an entity in itself, being the result of a direct stimulation to some portion of the upper respiratory tract due to improper swallowing of liquids or solids with a portion entering the trachea, or it may be due to some irritating material or to gas. However, a cough is usually considered a symptom of disease or part of a complication in the development of a disease pattern. The causative agents may be irritating gases, infections, either bacterial or viral, which are associated with such conditions as bronchitis, pneumonia, laryngitis, distemper, septicemias, and others. A cough can be also an indication of an asthmatic condition, of various types of heart lesions, or of tumors involving the lungs. These last conditions generally appear in middle- or old-age dogs, but have been found in young dogs. Observe your animal carefully and ascertain his temperature. If abnormal temperature is present, take the dog to a veterinarian immediately. Should the temperature be normal but the cough persist, then have the animal checked, clinically by a veterinarian, by means of blood count, filarial check for the presence of heart worm, and X-ray.

Diarrhea is a symptom of disease involving the gastrointestinal tract. The cause is a result of irritation and inflammation of the mucous membrane produced by various metallic poisons, bacterial and viral infections; also improper nerve control, intestinal parasites [roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm, whipworm, and protozoa (coccidiosis)], or some unusual pathological (disease) condition of the bowel. Diarrhea may occur early or late in a particular condition. It can be the result of improper clinical balance of calcium and phosphorus. At times it may be manifested by a purely watery condition, or a jelly-like mucus, or blood, in either scant or profuse amount.

In simple cases, castor oil or milk of magnesia may be used to clean out the gastro-intestinal tract followed by kaopectate or some similar product. The use of weak tea, sugar, and brandy at frequent intervals in small amounts may be soothing and corrective. Should there be no response in a short time (twelve hours), then one should take the animal to a veterinarian immediately.

External parasites—The common external parasites visible to the eye are the flea, the biting and sucking louse, and the tick. Some dogs have a relative attractiveness or susceptibility for harboring these parasites in varying concentrations. They may be properly controlled by the use of better grades of flea and louse powder, immersion in, or application of, proper solutions, and the use of sprays. These parasites may cause scratching and discomfort.

The two external skin parasites which cause considerable and sometimes severe irritation to the skin are demodectic and sarcoptic mange mites. Any suspicious lesions, no matter how small, should be scraped and examined under the microscope for the causative agent. Mange can be handled and cured by proper, early treatment.

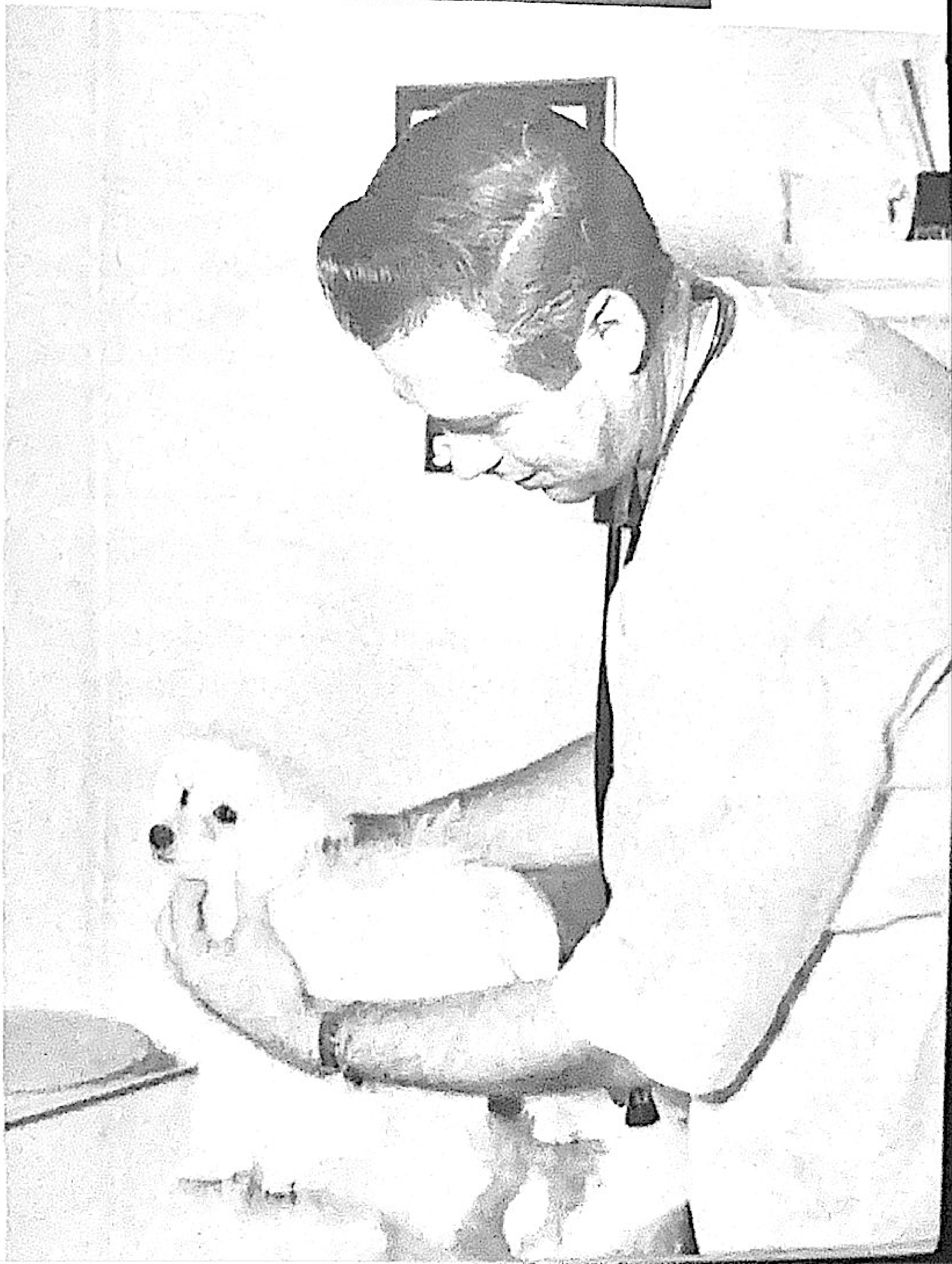
Eyes—The normal eye may be cleaned by using either a teaspoonful of boric acid or of table salt in a pint of boiled water. This solution applied to the eye with pledgets of cotton is soothing and cleaning. It is not wise to use home remedies or to be your own veterinarian.

Irritation and/or infection frequently cause rapid changes in the appearance and condition of the eye. If permitted to exist without care, serious complications may occur. In the case of eye trouble, simple or serious, get competent advice and treatment to minimize possible damage to the eye.

The mouth, the opening or anterior portion of the digestive tract, needs reasonable care. It is very important that the owner be able to open the mouth of his pet readily and be able to control interference by the pet. This accomplishment has a very practical and sound reason: should an animal become sick it may be necessary for a veterinarian to examine the mouth,

Inoculations are a "must" for the well-being of your puppy. Consult your veterinarian as to what and when your dog should receive them.

Introduce your dog to your veterinarian as early as possible. Regular examinations should be a part of your dog's health program.



tongue, pharynx, and tonsils, as well as to give medication. If a dog is not co-operative, then it is extremely difficult to administer medication, thus curtailing a proper nursing program.

It is essential to care for the dog's teeth. Sometimes it is necessary to remove first teeth which are not shed or pushed out properly by second teeth. In older dogs it is sometimes necessary to extract teeth An owner should have the mouth and teeth examined by a veterinarian at least once a year for bad breath or tartar. He should not hestitate to have the mouth cleaned and teeth extracted if necessary.

The skin as the protective covering of the body performs certain important functions. The condition of the skin and the hair coat is a clew to the health of the dog. Conditions manifested may be local or part of some organic or systemic disease. Disturbances involving the skin are caused by external and internal parasites, skin parasites, deficiencies in diet, food allergies, contact allergies, fungi, diseases of the liver, kidney, or pancreas, heart worms, glandular disturbances, and bacterial infections of the skin and adjacent foci, i.e., in the anal glands.

Treatment may be simple or difficult depending on the possible obscurity of condition, associated with difficult diagnosis and the lack of response to treatment.

Vomiting in dogs is a result of many conditions. Many times it is a symptom of a disease. In puppies it is often the result of much excitement or violent exercise or playing too close to the time of feeding. The condition may be due also to improper feeding or ingesting spoiled food or refuse. It may be the result of the direct stimulation of the vomiting center by drugs, or it may be due to injury of the brain as a result of pressure or to some other pathology. In the esophageal region it may be caused by either constriction or dilatation, while very rarely it is due to parasites found in this location. As regards the stomach, vomiting may be due to an irritated mucous membrane, deficiency in gastric juices, allergies to food, chemical poisoning, drugs, and foreign bodies. Irritation of the small intestine will likewise cause vomiting and is due to reflex stimulation similar to the aforementioned causes. Diseases of the liver, gall bladder, and kidney may also cause vomiting.

Apply common sense and handling—restrict the food, take away the water, permit the animal to lick ice cubes, which may give some relief. Warm, weak tea, with the addition of a little sugar, with or without a few drops of brandy, is helpful. Ginger ale or orange juice, with or without simple sugar syrup, are other liquids likely to arrest these symptoms. Do not be satisfied with these treatments, even though they may help temporarily; always consult your veterinarian.

Accidents and Poisoning

Accidents unfortunately may happen to all dogs either at home or away from home. Proper care depends on the nature of the accident. If lacerations with or without severe bleeding occur, clean dressings applied will suffice until the animal is examined by a veterinarian. If a hemorrhage of varying degree is present, then a tourniquet should be applied and the animal should be taken to a veterinarian immediately.

Probably the most common cause of accidents to dogs is the automobile. Injuries may be superficial or serious, depending on whether we have fractures, severe contusions, head injuries, internal or chest injuries. On approaching an animal which has been struck, one should be cautious. I would suggest that the mouth be tied with either a small piece of cord or a bandage to prevent biting, which in most cases is not deliberate but a defense measure. In lifting an injured dog who has been severely hurt, a piece of canvas, blanket, or a large towel can be slipped under the animal so that he may be carried. If these articles are not available, slip a loose leash over the neck, tie the mouth, and then by holding the leash or back of the neck firmly and placing the other hand under the chest, the dog, if not too large, can be moved. He can still be controlled with a minimum of danger of biting and suffering to himself.

If injuries occur in the region of the eye or to the eye itself, a veterinarian should be called at the earliest possible time.

Poisoning may be the unfortunate experience of an innocent dog. Should you suspect poisoning, immediate veterinary attention is imperative. Poisons affecting dogs are: (1) those of an organic nature, such as the toxins in snake venoms, (2) those which contaminate food, and (3) those of a chemical nature.

The more common chemical poisons which may be involved are arsenic, lead in sprays, thallium and arsenic found in ant buttons, phosphorus in some rat poisons, and strychnine alone or in rat and mole poisons. These poisons may have been placed accidentally or deliberately. There are also the chemical insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides which may be involved, or accidentally inhaled gases.

Should an animal be showing such symptoms as salivation, vomiting, profuse diarrhea—often associated with blood—restlessness, depression, weakness, inappetence, and sometimes convulsions, then poisoning may be present, and immediate professional attention should be obtained.

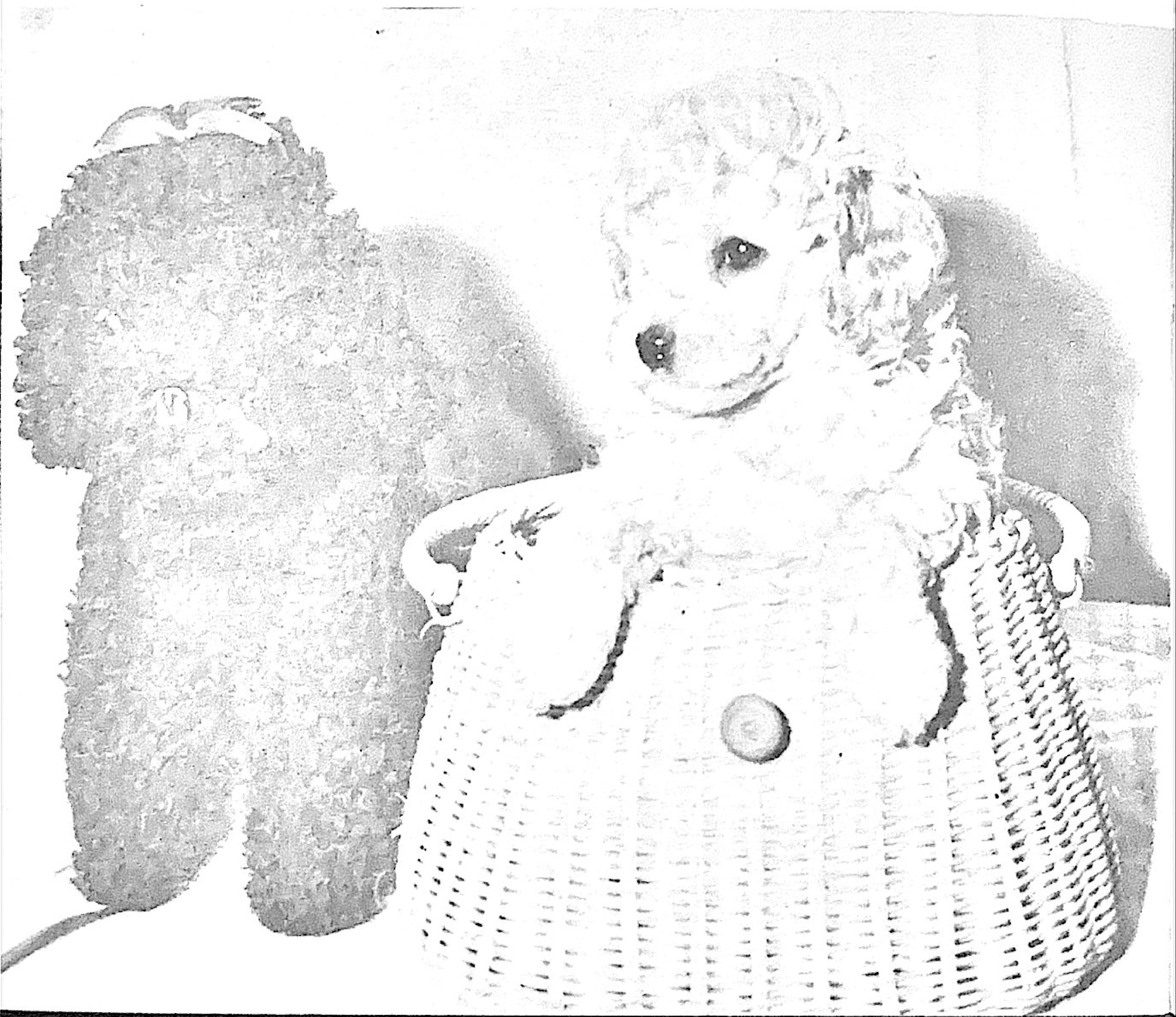
Matchmaking for Poodles

The breeder is the owner of the dam at the time of service. Most owners of a pet do not raise a litter so much for their own satisfaction as in consideration of the fact that motherhood is necessary to develop the full personality of their bitch.

When to Breed

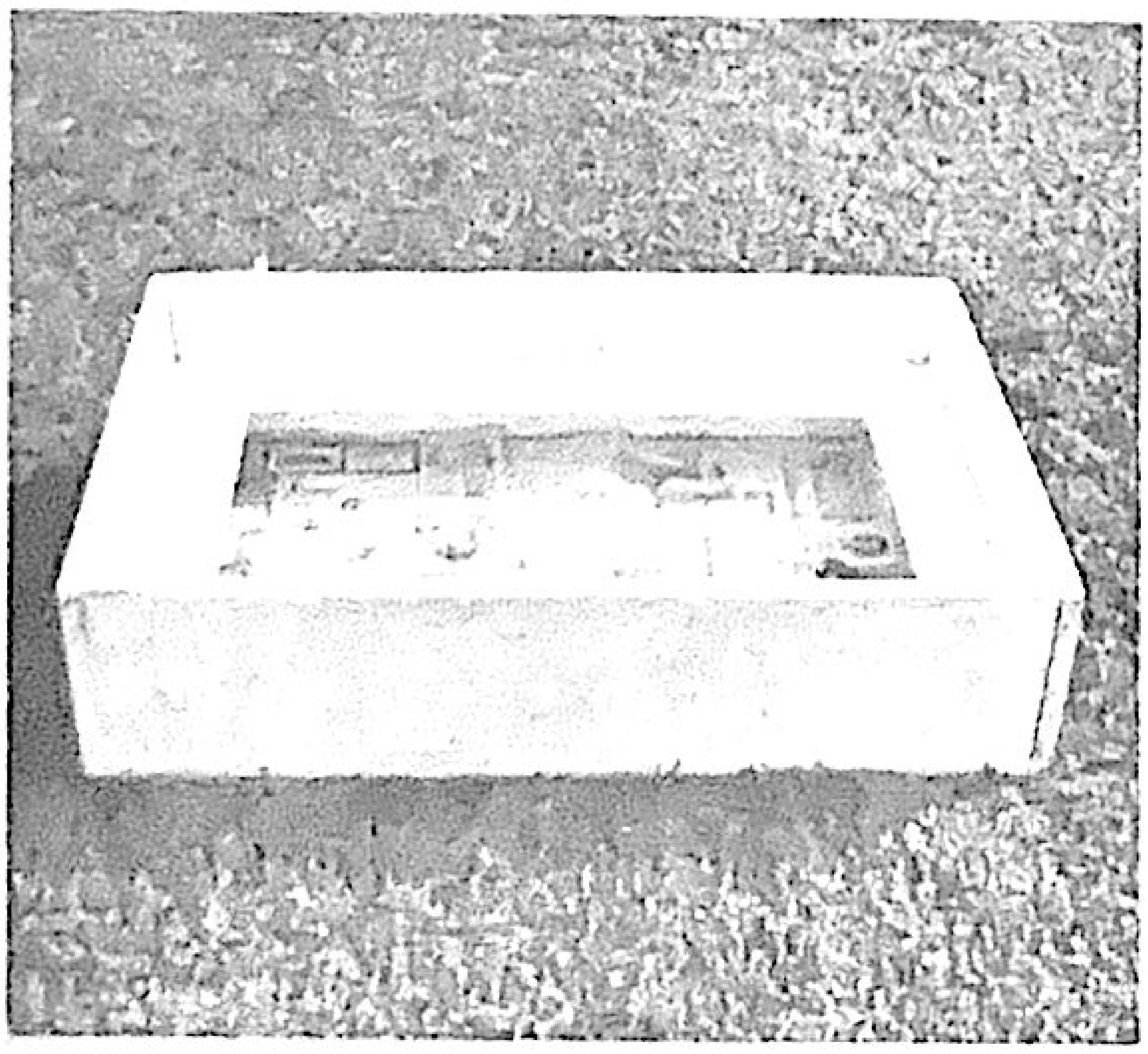
Poodle bitches come in season for the first time between the ages of nine months and a year, and at six-months intervals thereafter. It is usually advisable to skip the first season and to breed the bitch either at her second season or later—but not too much later, for the pelvic bones become less and less flexible with advancing years. So, if you are going to breed her, do it before she is three years old. Heat or oestrum first manifests itself by a general change in the bitch's personality. She becomes more affectionate, more restless, and her appetite will either increase or decrease. The first definite symptom you will notice is a swelling of the vulva. This is followed by a discharge which gradually becomes heavier, and on or about the fifth day from the time that you have observed the swelling, you will notice that there is blood in the discharge. The period of bleeding lasts anywhere from three days to two weeks; from

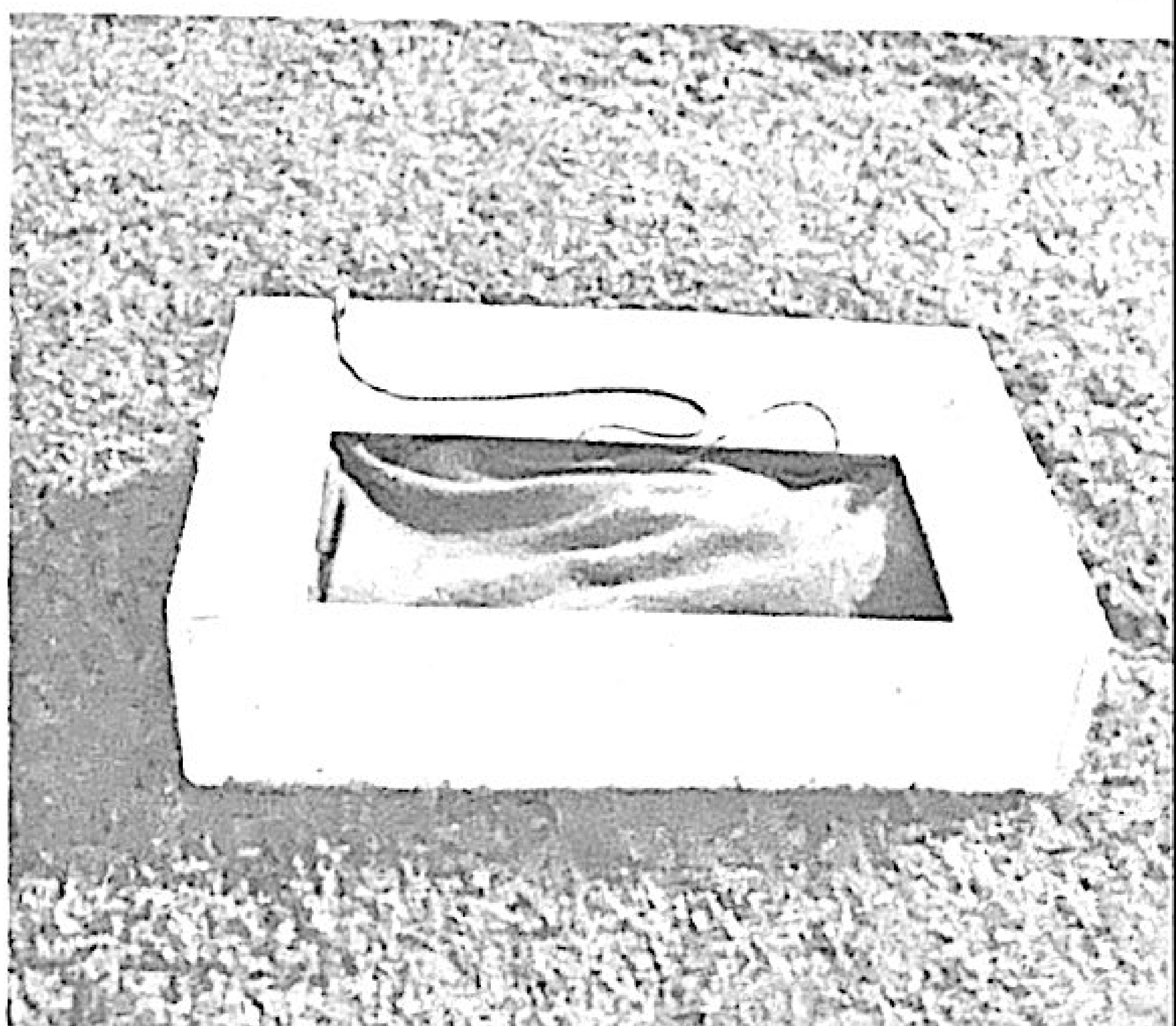
The end results of Poodle matchmaking can be seen in the photos on this page. The puppies shown at left are white Miniatures. The puppy in the basket is just five weeks old.



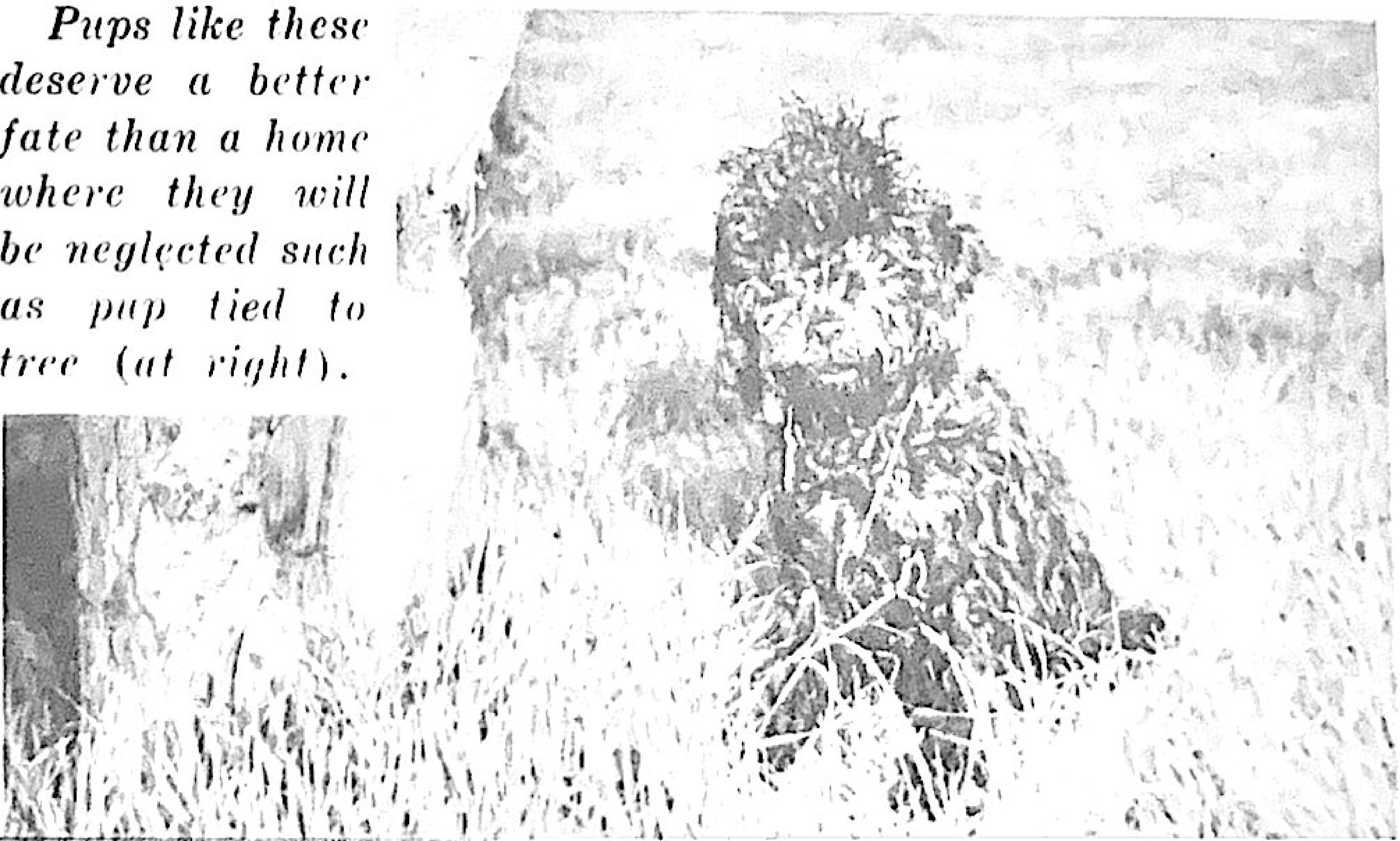
A veterinarian examines expectant Poodle. He is trying to hear the unborn puppies' heartbeats with his stethoscope.

Whelping box is shown ready for use at left. The ledge is built so that newborn pups are protected while bitch is in labor with subsequent puppies. Following the whelping, a blanket is tacked down or rags are stuffed under the ledge so that pups can't get under it and possibly suffocate.





Pups like these deserve a better fate than a home where they will be neglected such as pup tied to tree (at right).



three to five days after bleeding stops, the bitch can be bred. The second or the third day after blood is seen in her discharge it is advisable to send or take her to the kennel where the mate you have chosen holds court. Good kennels have ample accommodations for visiting bitches, and the owner of the sire will know the right time for mating to take place. There are usually two services, one day apart. The kennel manager or the owner of the kennel will let you know when both services have been completed satisfactorily, and he will either ship her back to you, or notify you when to come and get her.

Choice of Sire

It is always advisable to see the dog you have selected, to study his pedigree and, if possible, to inspect some puppies he has sired. Pick out a dog that you admire, arrange for your stud fee ahead of time, and be careful to keep the bitch confined before she goes on her honeymoon. Some owners of sires will accept the choice of the forthcoming litter in place of a stud fee; when making your arrangements it is wise to bear this in mind. If there are no puppies as a result of this mating, there is usually an arrangement for another service at the next period of heat. You can count on the puppies being born fifty-seven to sixty-three days from the date of the first service. If the bitch has conceived as the result of the second service, the puppies are whelped two days later.

Care of the Bitch in Whelp

After the bitch has been bred, keep her confined until she is over her period, then give her a bath, have her tested for worms, and have her treated if she has any internal parasites. It is well to do this early during pregnancy, as severe worming at a later stage may cause her to lose the puppies. The symptoms of pregnancy usually do not show until after the third week, and sometimes later. The first manifestation is usually development of the nipples; then the abdomen swells more and more until the puppies are born.

Toward the end of the seventh week, at the very latest, prepare a whelping box and give it to the expectant mother. Try to get her to accept it as her bed. You will find it easier if you put the box in the spot that she considers her own, or where she has been sleeping. Be careful not to let her out-of-doors too long without supervision or she will dig a hole under the house or the garage and have her puppies there.

When the puppies are due to arrive, watch your bitch very carefully; when she starts to scratch or curl around to make a nest, then the time is near. Be sure to leave the bitch alone when she starts whelping.

Puppies are born in neat little sacs. After the first puppy arrives, watch to see whether the mother has cut the umbilical cord and whether she ruptures the sac with her teeth and licks the puppy to make it cry. She will have time to do this before giving birth to the next puppy; it usually takes about a half hour between puppies. After she has had two or three, you can offer her some warm milk or gruel; if things seem to be going all right just leave her alone. Poodle bitches seem to be natural mothers, but if difficulties arise, send for your veterinarian.

When it is all over and the bitch has her little family squirming beside her, offer her some more food, liquid or semi-liquid, and let her rest for an hour or so; of course, you might give her an opportunity of leaving the puppies to go outside.

Size of Litter

Poodles are inclined to have large litters. I cannot overemphasize the necessity of keeping the number of puppies down to between four and six for a standard, and not more than four for a miniature or a toy. Raising too many puppies results not only in a weak, scrawny brood, but it endangers the mother's health. Furthermore, if she has too much to do she becomes discouraged and the puppies suffer. A bitch takes pride in her puppies—she keeps them clean, feeds them, keeps them warm, and even starts their early training. But like any good housewife, if she feels that her work is getting ahead of her she gets discouraged and becomes neglectful. This may result in her leaving the puppies and find you holding the bag (in this case the nursing bottle). So do not try to raise too many puppies. They may seem to be getting along very well with the mother at first, but from the end of the first week on, they literally tear her to pieces if there are too many for her milk supply. This may seem cold and brutal advice, but I have been raising puppies ever since I can remember and have found that a strong, healthy litter of four or five is much better in the long run than eight or nine weaklings.

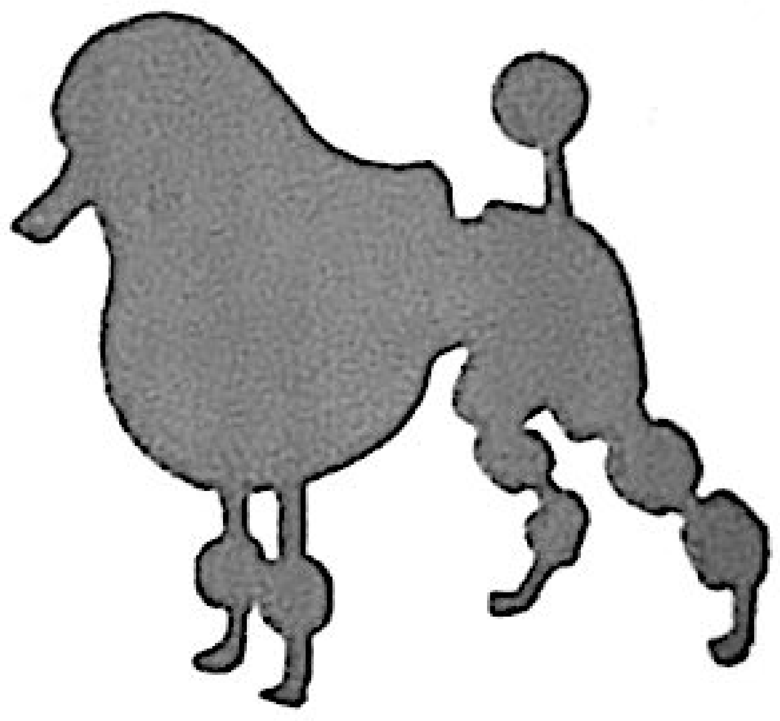
During the first week of the puppies' lives their tails must be trimmed and the dewclaws removed. It is best to have a professional do this; make sure that the tail is not cut too short, but left long enough to carry its pom-pom proudly.

Weaning

At the end of the second week you can start to feed the puppies. Give them a piece of chopped raw meat about the size of a walnut, to which you have added a drop of concentrated cod-liver oil. Start with this supplement once a day, and in another week give them twice as much in quantity in two meals daily. When they are between three and four weeks old, you can start teaching them to lap milk from a pan; the mother will help you do this. Gradually increase the number of supplementary feedings as you notice that the mother stays away from her puppies for longer and longer intervals. At the age of six weeks they should be completely weaned and eating by themselves.

I have purposely avoided going into details on prescribed specific diets or procedures. The reason is that individual cases present individual problems, and it is only by constant supervision that you will learn exactly what to do. In the case of your first litter it is always wise to rely on the advice of your veterinarian.

Consult Your Veterinarian



Bitches come in season about twice a year, but they should never be bred more than once a year. When you do not want to breed your bitch, you must prevent her from making a misalliance. The safest thing to do is to keep her securely locked up, exercising her only on a leash and keeping her shut up until the period is over. The average time from beginning to end of the period is three weeks. Bear in mind that it is at the *end* of her season that the bitch is fertile; be sure you do not let her out too soon. When the period is over, give her a good bath, using a deodorant.

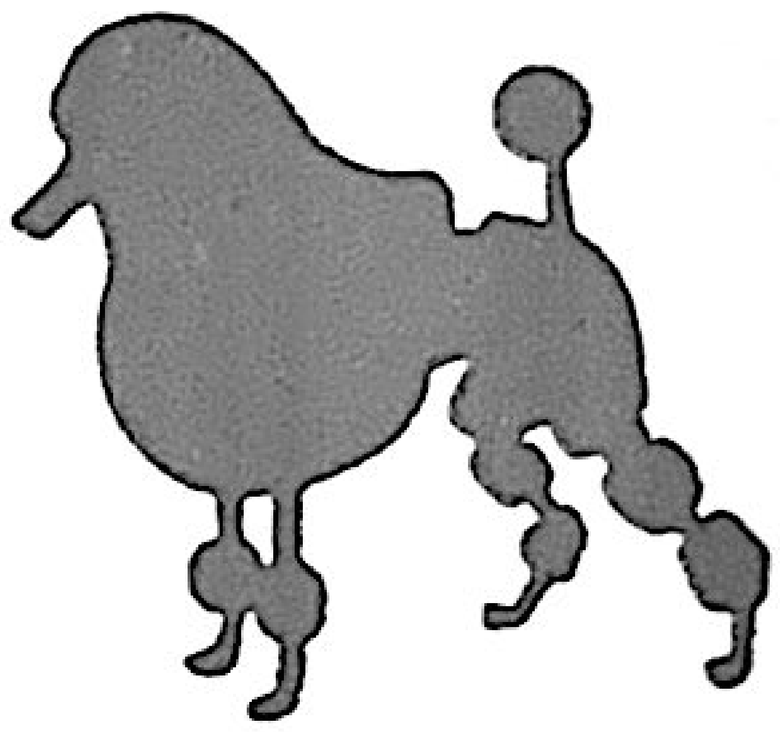
There are various devices, lotions, and medicines sold to prevent attraction of the opposite sex, but I should not advise trusting any of them implicitly. Vigilance is far safer.

Being a breeder and exhibitor, I have had no experience with spayed bitches as pets. (Spayed bitches cannot be shown in competition.) The only one I had ever spayed was thirteen years old, the operation being an emergency to save her life.

There are many authorities who believe that spaying is harmful psychologically and that the bitch should have at least one litter before she is spayed.

If you are determined to have your bitch spayed, consult your veterinarian as early as possible, since it is now common practice to spay before the first season, although opinions vary. So far as the operation itself is concerned there is little to worry about. The techniques of modern veterinary surgery are advanced, and in the hands of a good doctor the bitch will come through safely. It is often claimed that spayed bitches are prone to overweight. If you control your bitch's diet and exercise her regularly, you should have no problem with obesity. Occasionally there will be a dulling of the coat, but there should be no personality change. In the case of tumors of the uterus or other diseases of the internal reproductive organs, a complete hysterectomy may be necessary, especially in an older bitch.

That One Fault Common to All



The dog has one fault which you will never be able to overcome, an unforgivable fault, alas! It is common to all dogs, and there is no remedy for it. Sooner or later he will break your heart, for a dog does not live as long as a man.

I always ask prospective Poodle buyers whether they have ever had a dog and, if so, how long he has lived.

There are several possible answers:

"No." In which case, after finding out as much as possible about the puppy's new home, I offer to help choose one and indoctrinate the new owners as fully as possible.

If the answer is: "Yes, we had one but he died a week after we got him," I find out whether his death was unavoidable. If it was not due to the owners' neglect, they, too, get a puppy.

If they answer: "Yes, we had three, but we have had the most awful luck. The first one died of distemper, the second one was run over, the third one was stolen—oh, yes, then we got another one and he would not do anything we wanted him to do, so we gave him away." They do not get a puppy from me—no matter what price they are willing to pay, because what happened to them was not *bad luck;* it was *bad care.* You can have bad luck with one puppy or even two, but after that it is neglect, and no longer a question of luck.

If they say, "Yes, oh yes, our dog is thirteen years old now and we want to get a puppy, so we can learn to love him while we still have our old friend. He will never take the old dog's place, but he will make a place for himself, so that we shall not be totally bereft," they get my best puppy.

The first year of a dog's life corresponds roughly to the first fourteen years of a man's; subsequently, one year of the dog's life is equal to seven years of a man's life. By doing a little quick mental arithmetic you will figure that when your dog is eight years old he would be sixty-three if he were a man. Just as you would not expect teen-age vigor in a man of seventy, you should not expect a ten-year-old dog to retain all the exuberance of youth.

If you have loved and cared for your dog until he is seven or eight years old, you will not need advice about what to do for him when he grows older. Since he is able to take less exercise he will require less food, so watch his weight and don't let him become overweight. Obesity is as detrimental to his health as it would be to yours at that age.

Your dog's aging joints may stiffen, so that he has difficulty in going up and down the stairs. If this happens, arrange for him to have a bed downstairs, even if he has been sleeping elsewhere.

It hurts an old dog's pride to be unable to go out-of-doors for his necessary functions. If he cannot make it under his own power, be sure that he gets out, even if you have to carry him.

Teeth are of especial concern. As it becomes increasingly difficult for your dog to chew, his meals should be made softer and easier to swallow.

His hearing, too, becomes less acute, so don't go too far away from him. Keep him near enough so that he can hear your voice when you call him.

Even in youth your dog's vision was never keen, for his eye lacks a fovea. As he grows older, his vision becomes dimmer, and cataracts may develop.

The best you can do for your aging pet is to make his declining years as comfortable as possible, just as you would for a close friend who is no longer young. Give him the loving care he has deserved.

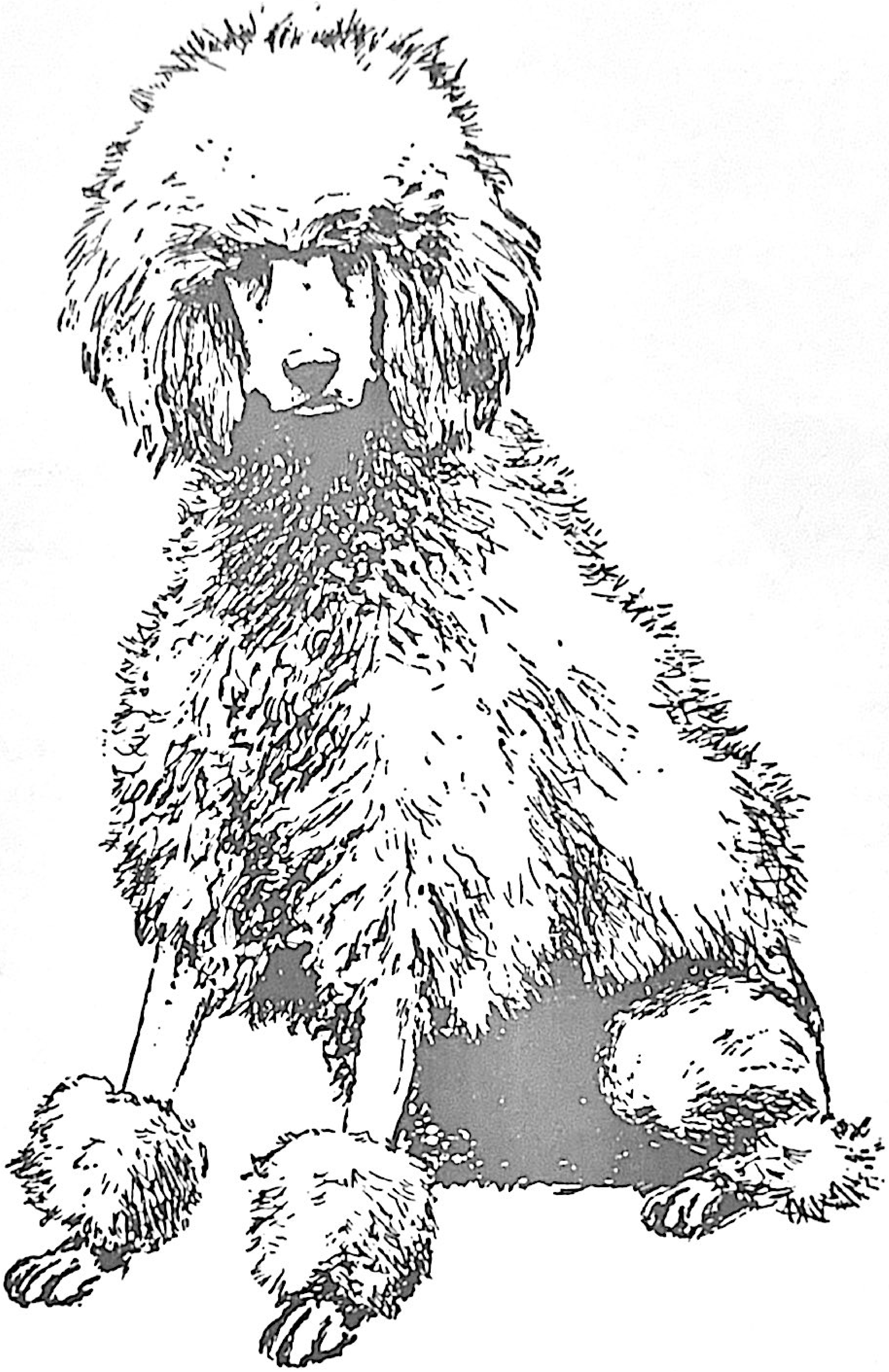
Impossible Doesn't Apply to Poodles

There is nothing, no trick, no stunt, however impossible it may seem, that you cannot teach your Poodle. All you need is patience and plenty of time to teach him; you can't start a new procedure and rush to answer the telephone before you are sure that the dog has understood what you want him to do. First, you must decide just what it is that you want him to learn, then outline in your own mind how you are going to proceed, step by step. Don't try to take the second step until you are sure that your dog has mastered the first one.

I had a Poodle (he was the dog of my life, the first puppy I raised, the first Bench Show Champion I made, and the dog who won the first obedience trial ever held in this country) who learned to distinguish the names of over ten different objects. I could send him to bring me a handkerchief, a wallet, gloves, a scarf, a notebook, a compact, a lipstick, and three other objects, which I was apt to forget.

Long, long ago, when I still believed that there were other breeds as fascinating, sympathetic, original, and diverting as the Poodle (that was before I had one), I was given a black Poodle puppy for Christmas. One week later I realized that the Poodle was all dogs to all men (and women).

My Poodle grew more enchanting as the months passed. When



she came in season the second time I decided to breed her, not because I wanted any more dogs, but experience with other breeds had led me to believe that a bitch is better in every way after she has had a litter of puppies—healthier, better adjusted, more developed in character.

The result of this mating was six puppies. By the time they were weaned they were promised to eager would-be Poodle owners, all but one brown dog puppy nobody seemed to want. Him I kept. That is how I acquired The Dog of My Life, The Superdog.

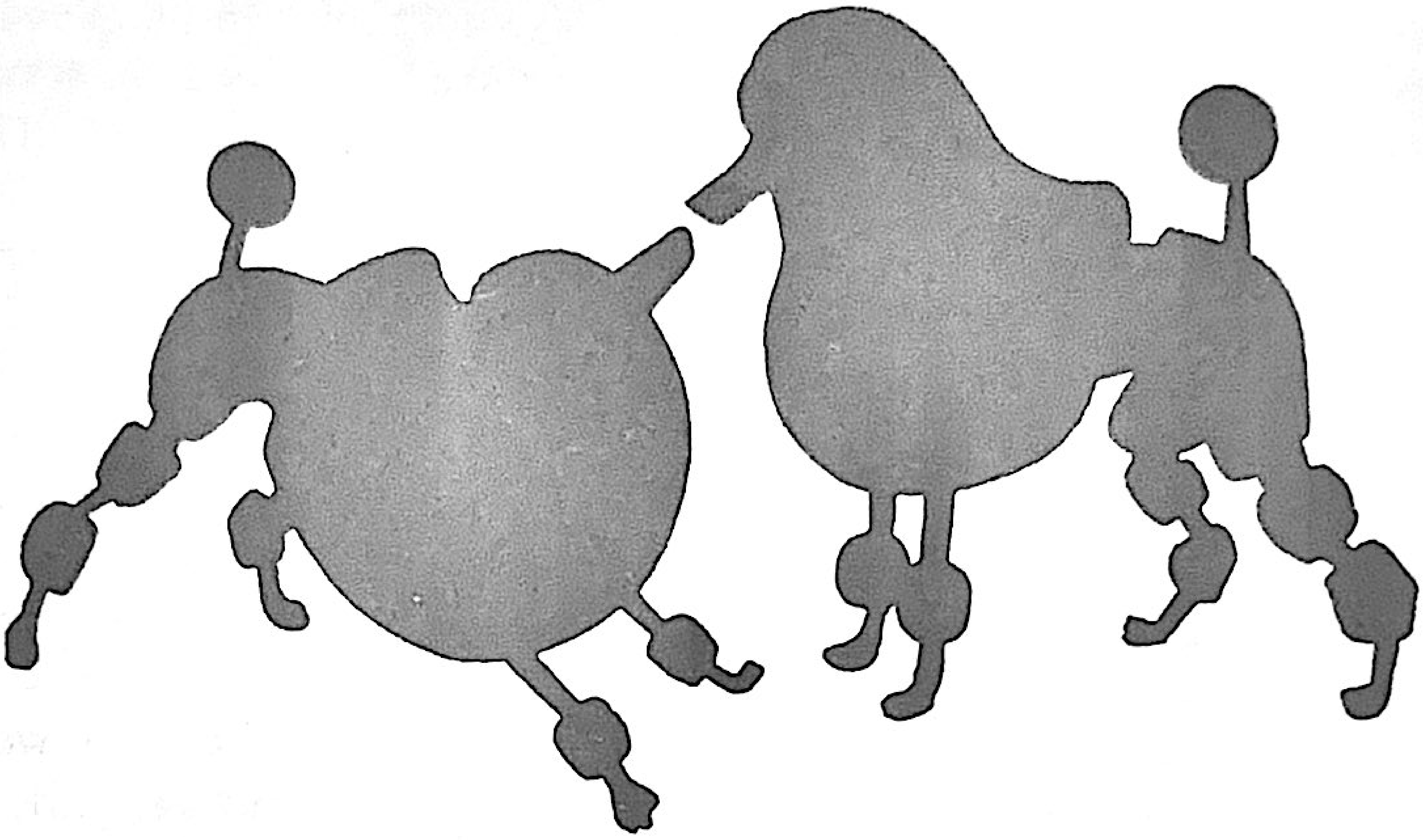
At first he didn't seem to be anything out of the ordinary, but as time went on he began to show signs of amazing intelligence. He grew more beautiful day by day, finishing his championship when he was a year old. I shall never forget that first purple ribbon! I slept with it under my pillow for nights; and although I have been very fortunate in showing Poodles since, no Best in Show ribbon has ever meant what that first one meant.

Superdog learned quickly, and as mentioned above, he won the first obedience trial to be held under A.K.C. rules; but it wasn't until he was almost three years old that he found out he didn't have to do everything he was told. He learned that he could get away with quite a lot, and he did!

Superdog started on his Disobedience Campaign during an obedience trial. The competing dogs entered the ring for the "long down" exercise in the B Class. Now in case you have never watched these trials, I must explain that this exercise consists of the following: the dogs are given the command "Down!" then "Stay!," whereupon the handlers leave the ring and the dogs remain (theoretically) lying down in the ring until the handlers return, walk up to the dogs, and give the next command.

Well, on this occasion I left my Superdog in the correct position and marched out of sight with the other handlers. We chatted uneasily for the required five minutes (which seemed like five hours), interrupted from time to time by bursts of laughter from the spectators around the ringside. When we marched anxiously back, all the dogs had moved but mine. He lay like a graven image of a dog exactly where I had left him. Imagine my rage and horror when the judge gave him the lowest rating! I was too proud and too mad to ask why.

When all the exercises were over, the judge came to me and



said, "It's a good thing you didn't see the show your dog put on!"

"Why, he was in exactly the same position as when I left the ring! What on earth are you talking about?"

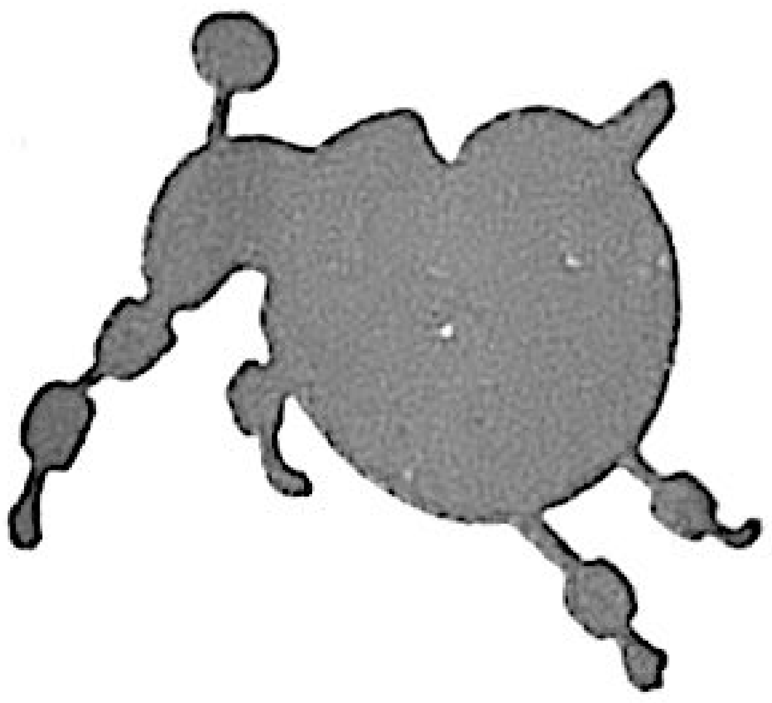
"Oh, yes, he was in the same position when you came back, but the minute you were out of sight he crawled on his belly behind all twelve dogs in the ring, sniffed each in turn, upset every one of them, and timed the whole performance so that he'd be right back in position when the time was up. That dog can tell time."

The next exercise was retrieving a dumbbell on command: the dog jumps a hurdle, picks up the dumbbell on the other side, jumps back over the hurdle, and presents it to the handler, just as a bird dog presents his retrieve.

I entered the ring, Superdog at my left, off leash, a perfect picture of canine obedience and docility. Hurling the dumbbell over the hurdle, I then gave the command "Fetch!" the dog sitting in position at my side. He leaped the fence in a graceful arc, located the dumbbell instantly, sniffed it, grinned at the ringside, and then—and I blush even now to think of that moment—pretended to lift his leg on it. He waited for the laughter to subside, then gravely picked up the dumbbell, leaped the fence, then jumped back and forth over it four times before presenting it to me in perfect form.

He never won his Utility Dog title, although he performed all the exercises perfectly in private. Once in the ring and on his own, he preferred to entertain. I couldn't afford to take chances in public, but at home, in the privacy of his own family, he improved on what he had been taught. Having mastered the art of tracking, he insisted on putting on his trailing harness to go in search of a lost bloodhound that belonged to a neighbor; he found her, too. He learned scent discrimination, and he turned that art to his own good purposes, mainly to pick a given card out of a deck. Of course, he picked out the card I had touched, but our astonished friends didn't know that, and credited him with the powers of a magician. He—but I must stop talking about That Dog, or you will begin to doubt my word.

A Yardstick for Appraising Poodles



(Adopted by the Poodle Club of America and approved by The American Kennel Club on May 12, 1953.)

For show purposes, there are three varieties of the Poodle breed—Standard, Miniature, and Toy.

General Appearance, Carriage and Condition—That of a very active, intelligent, smart and elegant-looking dog, squarely built, well-proportioned and carrying himself proudly. Properly clipped in the traditional fashion and carefully groomed, the Poodle has about him an air of distinction and dignity peculiar to himself.

Head and Expression. (a) *Skull*—Should be slightly full and moderately peaked with a slight stop. Cheekbones and muscles flat. Eyes set far enough apart to indicate ample brain capacity.

Muzzle—Long, straight and fine, but strong without lippiness. The chin definite enough to preclude snipiness. Teeth white, strong and level. Nose sharp with well-defined nostrils.

(b) *Eyes*—Oval shape, very dark, full of fire and intelligence.

(c) *Ears*—Set low and hanging close to the head. The leather long, wide and heavily feathered—when drawn forward it almost reaches the nose.

Neck—Well proportioned, strong and long enough to admit of the head being carried high and with dignity. Skin snug at throat.

Shoulders—Strong, muscular, angulated at the point of the shoulder and the elbow joint sloping well back.

Body—The chest deep and moderately wide. The ribs well sprung and braced up. The back short, strong and very slightly hollowed, with the loins broad and muscular. (Bitches may be slightly longer in back than dogs.)

Tail—Set on rather high, docked, and carried gaily. Never curled or carried over the back.

Legs—The forelegs straight from shoulders with plenty of bone and muscle. Hind legs very muscular, stifles well bent, and hocks well let down. Hindquarters well developed with the second thigh showing both width and muscle.

Feet—Rather small and of good oval shape. Toes well arched and close; pad thick and hard.

Coat (a) *Quality*—Curly Poodles. Very profuse, of harsh texture, even length, frizzy or curly, not at all open.

Corded Poodles. Very thick, hanging in tight, even cords.

(b) *Clip*—Clipping either in the traditional "Continental" or "English Saddle" style is correct. In the Continental clip the hindquarters are shaved, with pompons on hips (optional); and in the English saddle clip, the hindquarters are covered with a short blanket of hair. In both clips the rest of the body must be left in full coat. The face, feet, legs and tail must be shaved, leaving bracelets on all four legs, and a pompon at the end of the tail. The topknot and feather on the ears must be long and profuse, so as not to lose the very essential Poodle expression. A dog under a year old may be shown with the coat long except the face, feet and base of tail, which should be shaved. Any Poodle clipped in any style other than the above-mentioned shall be disqualified from the show ring.

Color—Any solid color. All but the browns have black noses, lips and eyelids. The browns and apricots may have liver noses and dark amber eyes. In all colors, toenails either black or the same color as the dog.